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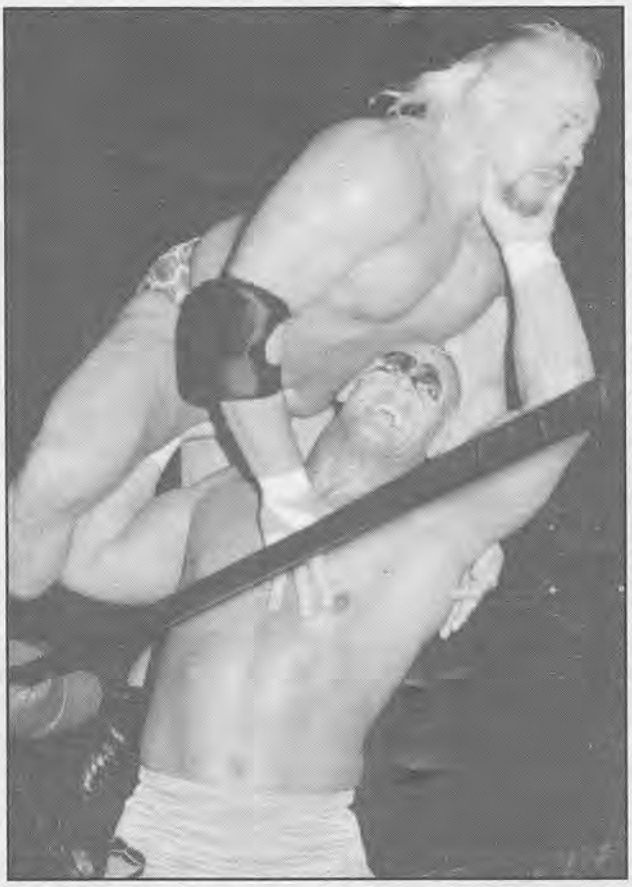

Sting is one of many top WCW stars who would benefit by moving to the WWF, where there is shortage of great wrestlers right now, writes Bruce Gray.

TRADING PLAYERS

For the past several months, much has been made of the fact that a lot of former WWF wrestlers are now in WCW. It is obvious that the balance of power has shifted, especially with Hulk Hogan as WCW World champion. I think it would be better for wrestling if the balance of power was more even. In short, several WCW wrestlers would benefit greatly by moving to the WWF.

First on this list is definitely Sting. Sting has won just about every title available during his tenure in WCW. But the last couple of years we have seen Sting slumping, and it seems like he is content to just be Hulk Hogan's patsy now. This is wrong. With his talent and charisma, he could easily dominate the talent-poor WWF.

Second is Brian Pillman, a talented athlete that has foundered badly since his feud with Steve Austin. "Flyin'" Brian desperately needs a change of scenery. I believe everyone would benefit if these wrestlers made the move, especially the fans.

BRUCE GRAY
Orlando, FL

JUST ENJOY IT!

When will readers stop moaning about WCW and former WWF stars? Think about this: All through the 1980s, WCW was an upstart promotion that ran most of its cards in the southeastern United States. The WWF was filling stadiums for pay-per-view events at the time.

Today, practically everything and everyone that made the WWF the wrestling organization of the 1980s is part of WCW: Gene Okerlund and Bobby Heenan are doing most of the broadcasting, and Randy Savage and others are the top drawing stars. Instead of taking over WCW, the former WWF wrestlers have blended in, creating new tag teams, alliances, and dream matchups that fans never thought they'd see. Meanwhile, Vince McMahon and company are languishing with their clowns, country stars, and taxmen—and a brotherly feud that has lasted for more than 15 months!

Fans shouldn't be upset with the shift of WWF stars to WCW; they should just sit back and enjoy the great action that we thought we'd never see.

TERRY SHIMMINS
Beloit, WI

SOMETHING'S FISHY

I always knew that there was something fishy about The Bushwhackers ("The Bushwhackers: 'Sardines Are To Us What Spinach Is To Popeye,'" May 1995), and now the truth comes out. Scientists and nutritionists say that eating seafood is an excellent way to prevent heart problems, because the oil is more beneficial than oil from animal fat. If you don't believe me, just ask an Eskimo. They knew all along that fish was a good addition to a proper diet. Just like the Eskimos, The Bushwhackers will never have to worry about their hearts.

The Bushwhackers claim that they get a lot of their strength and energy from eating sardines. Reader Fred Jessup says that shows they know a lot about good nutrition.

With all those little fish they eat, Luke and Butch should consider becoming spokesmen for the whole sardine industry. They are fine examples of what eating lots of fish can do for a person; they're healthy, strong, and physically fit.

FRED JESSUP
Raleigh, NC

GERMAN INVASION

I fully agree with Matt Brock's conclusion about Alex Wright ("WCW's Next Superstar: Alex Wright? Wrong!" May 1995). Brock was a little blunt with his phrasing, but he wrote the truth about the latest import from Germany. Alex Wright may be an okay aerial wrestler, but he definitely needs to bulk up, learn some new moves, and stop that weird dancing.

In defense of "Das Wunderkind," though, he is new to America, and he may not be used to the way things are done here. It happens to any professional athlete who enters a foreign land to take part in a sport. It will take a while for Wright to learn the customs, traditions, rules, and language. Once he does, maybe he will be something of a superstar. You can never tell.

GINNY TRUMAN
Houston ■

Alex Wright *does* have a chance to become a WCW superstar, according to reader Ginny Truman. He says Wright just needs to get used to the customs in America and learn a few new moves.

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the Tattler

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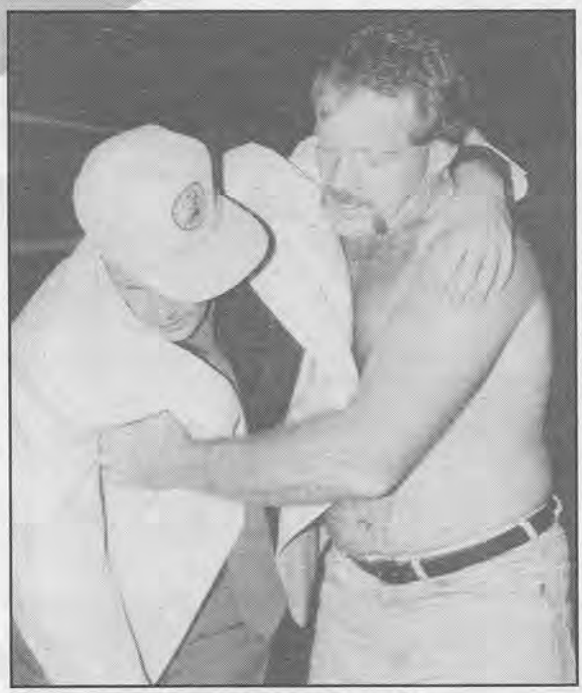

JIM CORNETTE & JIM DEL RAY

KNOXVILLE, TN: Either Jim Cornette really is a changed man, or he really is the devious, disturbed genius he claims to be.

For a few months, he was the manager to The Rock 'n' Roll Express in their matches against The Gangstas. Even helped them win the SMW tag team title. Even took some horrible, bloody beatings at the hands of The Gangstas because of it and didn't complain.

Everyone told Rick Morton and Robert Gibson that Cornette would turn against them, but it never happened. The alliance ended amicably, and now Cornette and the Rock 'n' Rolls have nothing but good things to say about one another.

And Cornette has moved on. He has cozied up to SMW Commissioner/part-time wrestler Bob Armstrong. That's right—the same Bob Armstrong that, for months, Cornette tried, using every mercenary he could find, to remove him from office.

Armstrong rescued Cornette and his Heavenly Bodies from a vicious postmatch beating at the hands of The Gangstas in Johnson City in February, then showed Cornette and the Bodies obvious favoritism when he refereed a six-man match the next day here. He even kayoed New Jack with his own foreign object and shook hands with Cornette afterward. "Bullet" Bob will tell you he's convinced Jimbo has forsaken his old ways. Maybe so, but how does he explain the fact that Cornette still associates exclusively with rulebreakers in the WWF?

—Ron Donnelly

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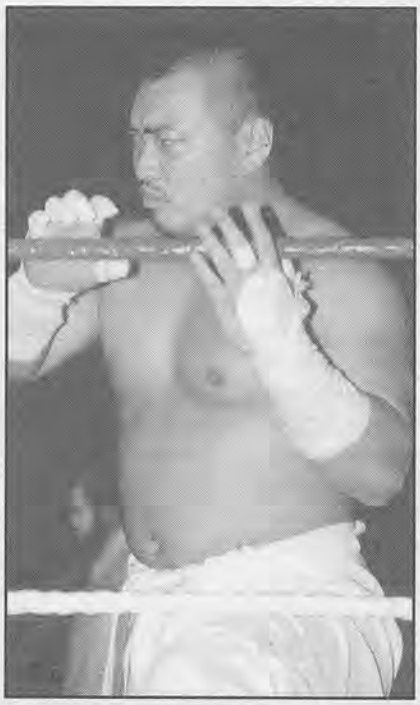
AUGUSTA, GA: What was the motivation behind Hakushi's vicious attack on Bret Hart during a ceremony at which "The Hitman" received a special award from members of the Japanese press? Was it, as Hakushi's handlers have suggested, simply that Hakushi believed Jerry Lawler when Lawler said he knew for a fact that Bret hated the Japanese? Or was it, as others have suggested, Hakushi's way of getting matches with one of the WWF's most popular athletes?

Neither, say at least two reliable sources. These sources, both WWF rulebreakers, say Hakushi doesn't care what Hart thinks of the Japanese. They say his motivation was purely financial.

"I know for a fact that Hakushi received considerable sums of money from both Jerry Lawler and *Bob Backlund* to carry out the attack," said one of the rulebreakers. "It makes sense. Lawler has been humiliated by Bret so many times, and Backlund has not had much success at all since he lost the World title. Maybe he won't admit, but I think he's a little afraid of Bret. He'd much rather attack him when he's down than take him on one-on-one!"



HAKUSHI

After Hakushi jumped Hart, Backlund did slap on his cross-face chicken wing. If he was, indeed, behind that sneak-attack, it would make his already sad story even sadder. Not only has a once-clean cut fan favorite turned to rulebreaking, he has also resorted to paying others to do his dirty work.

—Joseph Davis

PHILADELPHIA, PA: After a six-month hiatus, Terry Funk is back in ECW. And he made one of the strangest ring entrances in wrestling history upon his return!

Cactus Jack had just finished off D.C. Drake—who had come to the ring in a large wooden box. But The Sandman and Woman, who had brought Drake to ECW to challenge Jack, weren't about to let the madman from New Mexico get off easy. They smashed Cactus repeatedly with a rattan cane after the match. In an unbelievable display of courage, Jack kept fighting back. He ultimately wrapped Sandman in a blanket and rolled him into the box.

A few minutes later, a man rolled out of the box, presumably Sandman. Jack went to attack him again. But the man pulled the blanket off and revealed himself to be none other than 50-year-old Terry Funk!

Funk, an ECW hero, was showered with chants of "Terry! Terry!"; those chants faded quickly as Funk yelled expletives at the crowd. He helped Sandman pummel Cactus. Many wrestlers tried to pull him off, but it took ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas to get it done. Then Douglas turned his rage on Funk. Rumor has it that Funk had left ECW because of the disrespect Douglas showed the NWA title when he threw down the belt after winning it in a tournament. Douglas may live to regret all those bad things he said about the NWA in 1994.

TERRY FUNK

—Joe Vincent

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

WHAT A COMMOTION Randy Savage caused when, in December, he announced that he had signed a contract with WCW. From the time rumors that the "Macho Man" was considering joining WCW until the day Savage signed on the dotted line, both Hulk Hogan and rival Kevin Sullivan clamored to get him to join their respective sides.

Hogan won.

Since pledging his allegiance to Hogan, Savage has gone undefeated in WCW. In tag team and six-man matches, with both Hogan and Sting as his partners, Savage has wrestled impressively against the top competition in the federation. Sullivan ... Beefcake ... Big Bubba ... Avalanche ... not a single one of them has been able to conquer the "Macho Man." Remember, as great as Savage's career has been, it was only a few months ago that he was spending most of his time behind a microphone in the WWF. If there was ring rust to battle, however, it didn't show.

In his first match in WCW, the "Macho Man" appeared to have won the TV title from Arn Anderson. "The Enforcer" was allowed to keep his belt only because the pinfall took place seconds after a 15-minute time limit had expired.

"Anderson is lucky he still has that belt," shouted Savage. "He won't have it too much longer—that is if he's man enough to give me another shot!"

Despite Savage's tough talk directed against WCW's rulebreakers, there are many who believe it is only a matter of time before he is one of them. Savage may well be sincere in his allegiance to Hogan, but he was just as sincere before turning against the "Hulkster" in the WWF. At the time, Savage broke up the wildly popular Megapowers tag team when he accused Hogan of "lusting after" his then-manager Elizabeth. This accusation led to a bitter feud that was never really settled. Some observers believe the "Macho Man" may just be setting Hogan up for a double-cross.

"When I shook Hogan's hand," said Savage, "I gave him my word that I would help him get rid of the Faces of Fear. Oh, yeah, I never go back on my word!"

Despite Savage's assurance, Hogan should still not forget the past just yet. At Clash of the Champions XXX, Hogan was rendered unconscious by Brutus Beefcake's sleeperhold. Savage climbed to the top rope and delivered a flying axehandle to Hogan's neck to wake him up. It was a strange sight to see, because a simple slap to the back of the neck is usually all it takes to wake up a sleeperhold victim.

"I just did what I had to do, man," explained Savage. "Hulk was under really deep, and I knew that it would take a good shot to wake him up. It was nothing more than that."

It's hard not to believe him at this point. It seems as if every time either Hogan or Sting gets in a jam these days and is double-teamed by a few rulebreakers, it's the "Macho Man" to the rescue.

And Savage has become more than a man who will help out a friend in need. He has been teaming frequently with Sting against Avalanche and Big Bubba. When he isn't doing that, he's helping Hogan take out Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma or some other rulebreaking team. Savage and Sting could conceivably challenge World tag team champions Harlem Heat for the belts soon. That would be especially interesting when you consider that Heat's manager, Sherri Martel, used to manage Savage in the WWF.

"I don't care what people say about Randy," said Sting. "I'm sick of hearing them say that he's gonna stab me or Hulk in the back, that the only reason he came to WCW was to win the World title, and that he doesn't care who he has to run over to get it. All I know is he has been a perfect tag team partner and a great friend!"

Sherri wasn't so complimentary.

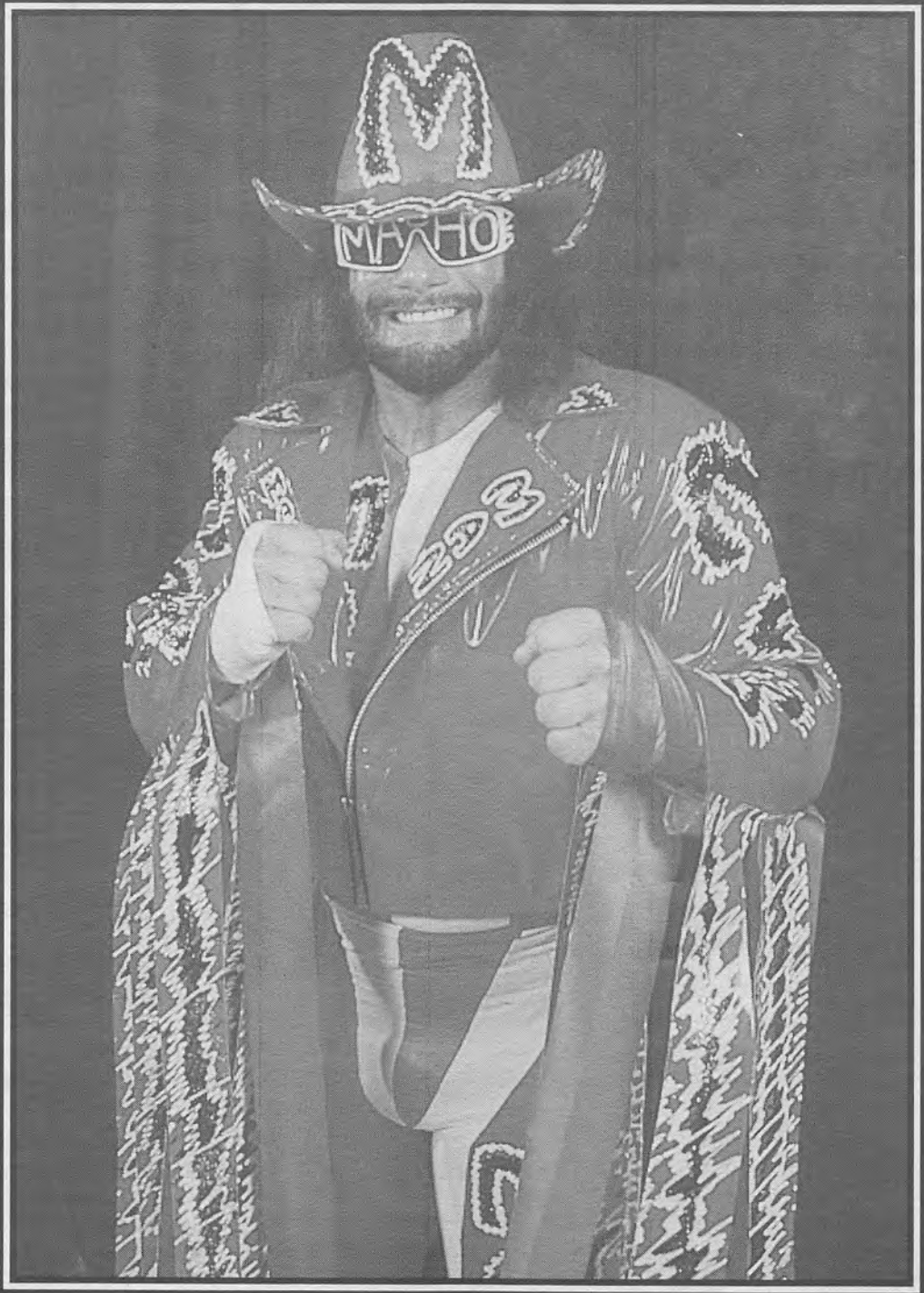
"I know everything there is to know about 'Macho Man,' and it's not too much," she said. "If he thinks that him and Mascara Boy or him and that gorilla Hogan could actually beat the Heat, he's got another think coming."

Regardless of the challenges that lie before him, Savage will undoubtedly meet them head on, just as he has every one of his challengers in WCW so far. There may be many doubts about the true intentions and loyalties of the "Macho Man," but there is no doubting that he is still at the top of his game.

Has he been outstanding in his first few months in WCW? *Oooooh, yeeeeeeah!* ■

JULY 1995

RANDY SAVAGE



There's a reason Randy Savage is smiling. He has gone undefeated in his first few months in WCW and is doing exceptionally well in tag team matches with both Hulk Hogan and Sting.

RUMOR

Rumors spread around the wrestling world like wildfire on a prairie. SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING is glad to douse those flames and set the record straight

The Road Warriors are ready to return. They didn't care where their first match together took place, and they were never worried about embarrassing themselves.

RUMOR: Lawrence Taylor, hungry for the spotlight, requested and received a ringside seat to the 1995 Royal Rumble knowing he would try to pick a fight with a WWF rulebreaker. During the course of the card, the former New York Giants linebacker singled out Bam Bam Bigelow as a likely target, having been familiar with Bigelow because of his New Jersey background.

FACT: According to WWF officials and those close to the situation, Taylor was planning on nothing but an evening at the matches when he attended the card in Tampa, Florida. "L.T. was in town for a little golf, a little winter sun, and a little entertainment at the Royal Rumble," said our source. "To say that he's hungry for the spotlight is ludicrous. There was a situation, and L.T. dealt with it. He was offered a large amount of money to appear at WrestleMania and wrestle Bigelow, and he took it. Even at the height of his career, L.T. never received $500,000 [reportedly his take, win or lose, at WrestleMania] for one game. That would have been $8-million a year." A more likely scenario to WWF watchers is that Bigelow spotted Taylor at ringside and saw a potential huge payday and boost to *his* career.

RUMOR: The Road Warriors chose North Korea for the site of their comeback because they were afraid of embarrassing themselves in front of their many fans in the

vs. fact

United States and Japan. Hawk and Animal were offered far more money by U.S. and Japanese promoters for their comeback matches than the Korean promoters offered, but declined because they wanted to make sure they were sharp and also test the strength of Animal's back.

FACT: The supercard on April 29 at Mayday Stadium in North Korea figures to be one of the greatest events in wrestling history and was scheduled to include umerous top stars, including Ric Flair, Antonio Inoki, 2 Cold Scorpio, Rick and Scott Steiner, and many Japanese greats. It's ridiculous to say that The Road Warriors chose a low-profile event for their return, because the card is expected to draw at least 100,000 fans. As for the rumors concerning Animal's physical fitness, he has already tested the back in closed-gym matches against Hawk. According to witnesses, the two wrestlers tore into each other as if they were enemies, with Hawk at one point slamming Animal flat on his back. At this point, there is no concern regarding The Road Warriors. They are, indeed, back and ready to rumble.

RUMOR: The end of Mo and Mabel's alliance with Oscar came when Men on a Mission discovered that their manager had turned down a seven-figure offer to sign a recording contract with a major rap label. Oscar explained to Mo and Mabel that he thought it would interfere with their wrestling careers. Mo and Mabel disagreed.

Mabel and Mo's decision to break away from the rapping manager, Oscar, had everything to do with the fact that they were going nowhere with him ... and nothing to do with a recording contract they may have been offered.

FACT: Oscar's alliance with Men on a Mission died of natural causes. They had nearly reached the end of their run when Oscar ordered Mo and Mabel to apologize to Billy Gunn for kicking him after a match. The Smokin' Gunns incident was merely the last straw. As for the recording contract, to the best of our knowledge, Men on a Mission have never been approached by any record company and have been recorded only on their own boom boxes.

RUMOR: Hakushi was hired by Stu and Helen Hart to distract Bret Hart from his feud with his brother Owen.

FACT: This rumor, which we have heard hundreds of times and has been the subject of dozens of calls to our offices, is absolutely, positively untrue. The tipoff is that the Harts would have never hired a man to attack their son, even if the end possibly justified the means. Hakushi, the Japanese newcomer to the WWF, is his own man and has no connection to Stu and Helen Hart. Now, as for any possible connection to Owen ... ■

REPORT CARD

Here's a convenient way to become acquainted with the strengths and weaknesses of your favorite mat stars. In this section, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING analyzes the abilities of the best in the sport!

RAZOR RAMON

SPEED: Not one of the "Bad Guy's" best assets. Once a match gets underway, Ramon usually makes every attempt to keep his opponent cornered or, even better, down on the mat, where he has an advantage. He knows he can't afford to chase a lot of the smaller, quicker guys around too much. He recognizes his limitations in this area and doesn't let his lack of speed hinder him that much. **C+**

STRENGTH: Hard to measure in an athlete like Ramon. He stands 6'8" and weighs 287 pounds, yet he is not over-muscled. Has fared exceptionally well against the few bigger men he has faced, showing patience in wearing them down. Many wrestlers have made the mistake of trying to trade punches with Razor, and most of them have regretted it. Ramon can overpower anyone. **A-**

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE: Ramon is a brawler in every sense of the word, and he isn't ashamed to admit it. That said, his repertoire probably isn't as limited as you would think. His "Razor's Edge" finisher is among the most devastating in all of wrestling; he also has an excellent superplex, a pretty good clothesline, and has been known to use an occasional abdominal stretch. Maybe he's actually more than a brawler after all! **B**

PHYSICAL CONDITION: No one is questioning Ramon's dedication to keeping himself in peak physical condition. There are, though, some questions about his stamina and a few nagging injuries. Watch Ramon in matches that last longer than 15 minutes: He looks worn-out and occasionally struggles for several minutes at a time before catching his second wind. Continues to have knee problems as the result of an attack by Jeff Jarrett's Roadie at the 1995 Royal Rumble. Might be better off taking on a less grueling schedule. **B**

RING INTELLIGENCE: Everyone knows how Razor likes to brag about how much machismo he has. That's great, but sometimes he can be a little too fearless; he *never* backs down from a challenge, but perhaps he should sometimes. He lost by countout to Jarrett at the 1995 Rumble after Roadie attacked him. Yet he was quick to return to the ring when Jarrett called him a coward; he subsequently lost the Intercontinental title. He should learn to choose his battles more carefully. **B**

OVERALL GRADE: Razor Ramon is one of those wrestler who, as a whole, is better than the sum of his parts. He isn't a great mat wrestler or aerialist, but he has so much heart and courage—and he has such an incredible will to win—that he has to be considered a superstar. After so many years as a mid-card wrestler, he finally broke through by winning the I-C title twice. If Diesel can win the WWF World title, there's no reason Ramon can't do it, too. **B+**

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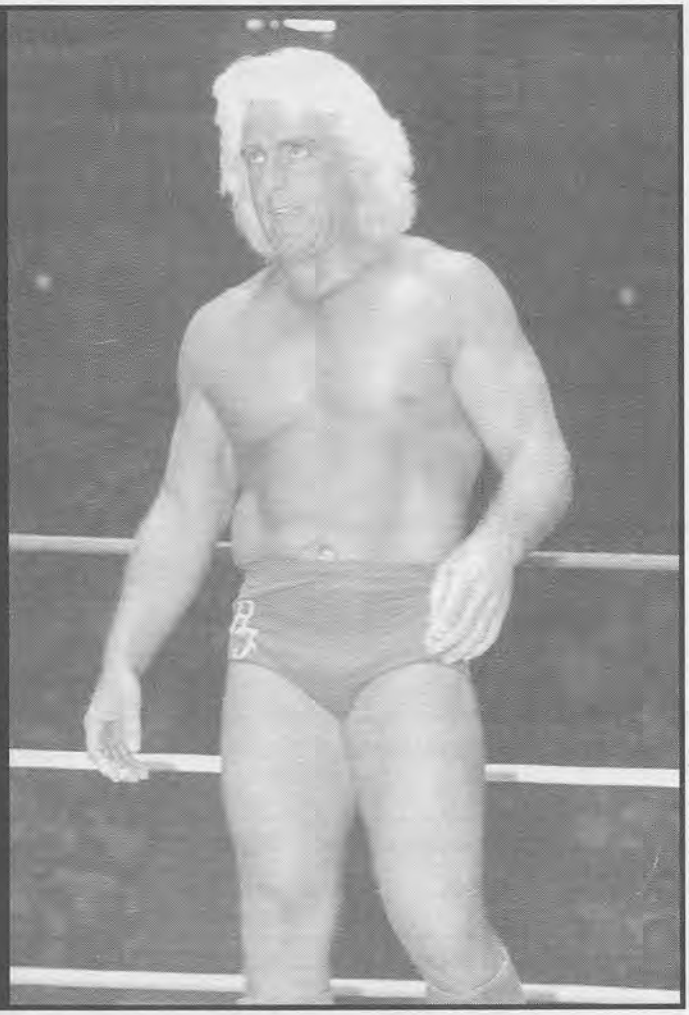
SPORTS REVIEW HOROSCOPE

Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING'S psychic-in-residence, Zenid Ambraham, will study the zodiac with respect to some of the sport's top personalities in an effort to project what will be happening to that person's career in the months to come!

RIC FLAIR



Birthday: February 25
Sign: Pisces
Shares birthday with: Andre Breton, Liza Minelli, and Sandy Duncan

Horoscope reading for May: The New Moon eclipse from April 29 brings Ric an excellent opportunity to focus his considerable brain power on a writing project that he might have been putting off for some time. Maybe that would be a good time for him to write his memoirs or that novel he has been thinking about for years.

Once he sets his mind to do it, he will gain great insight into his life during this month. He should also focus on a community proposal or even a promotional campaign of some sort. His knowledge could be very insightful for a colleague. During the whole month, he may feel the need to do his own thing, but Flair could also be forced into a demanding friendship. A Full Moon on May 14 in his solar ninth house (education, distant travel) could be his springboard to extensive foreign travel and intrigue.

This Full Moon will also exaggerate and deepen Ric's spiritual growth. During this time period, he will be successful in his quest to travel around the world in search of deeper meaning in his life. Ric ought to be warned, though, and be sure to finalize all of his reservations and schedules before the 24th, when Mercury backtracks and creates confusion in all of his messages, information, and correspondence. Flair should take heed, since he may lose a valuable associate because of this confusion. The loss will only be temporary, though, and the situation will clear up by the early part of the next month.

When the New Moon rises in Gemini on the 29th, it will spotlight Ric's home life, making domestic harmony his prime concern. He will realize that he may have been taking his family members for granted by forgetting a promise he recently made.

Rob Feinstein presents. . .

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❑ECW TV TAPE #2 • Features 6 hours of action
Snuka vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Shane (Brawl) Taz and Sullivan brawl with Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Pat Tanaka, Taz & Sullivan vs. Bruise Brothers (Title Change), Sabu vs. Tazmaniac, Douglas & Public Enemy vs. Funk & Crash & Sullivan Plus Pitbull, Cairo, Hawk, Snuka, Mike Awesome, Bad Breed, Sandman and more PLUS tons of other matches and interviews.

❑ECW TV TAPE #3 • Features 6 hours of action
Tanaka vs. Douglas, Taz vs. JT, Sandman vs. Cairo, Public Enemy vs. Bruise Brothers (Falls count anywhere WILD!!!) Sabu vs. Mike Awesome, Sandman vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson come in!!!! Taz & Sullivan vs. Snuka & Powers PLUS Paul E. Douglas, Pitbull, Hawk, 911, Peaches, Public Enemy, Bruise Brothers and more...

❑ECW TV TAPE #4 • Features 6 hours of action
Sandman vs. Cairo, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy (Lumberjack match) Funk & Arn vs. Sabu & Eaton, Pitbull vs. Mikey, JT & Bruise Brothers & Dreamer vs. Douglas & Hughes & Public Enemy, Taz vs. Sandman PLUS Too Cold Scorpio, Cactus Jack, Sullivan, Jason and more...

❑ECW TV TAPE #5 • Features 6 hours of action
Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Cairo vs. Sandman (Falls count anywhere) Funk vs. Public Enemy, Pitbull vs. Jason, Cactus vs. Sabu Clips, Douglas & Hughes vs. Bruise Brothers (Cage match), 911 vs. Cairo, Dreamer vs. Douglas (Bloody), Taz vs. Jimmy Snuka, Public Enemy & Hack vs. Dreamer & Funks Plus Woman, Cactus Jack, Paul E. Peaches, Mikey, and more...

❑ECW TV TAPE #6 • Features 4 hours of action
911 & Mr. Hughes stare down, Sandman canes Dreamer, Snuka & Pitbulls vs. Funks & Dreamer, Barbed wire clips Funks vs. Public Enemy, Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk clips, Jason vs. Mikey (Title change), Taz & Snuka vs. Pitbulls PLUS Chad Austin, Sabu, Paul E, Sandman, Dreamer, and more...

❑ECW TV TAPE #7 • Features 4 hours of action
Sandman vs. Dreamer, Scorpio vs. Sabu clips, 911 vs. Evil Clown, Sandman vs. Dreamer (Canning match • bloody), Douglas vs. Dean Malenko, Douglas vs. Scorpio from tournament, Chris Benoit vs. Scorpio clips, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (Title change) Douglas vs. Nishimura PLUS 911, Scorpio, Taz, Woman, Oddesy, and tons of other matches including all the stars of ECW.

❑ECW TV TAPE #8 • Features 4 hours of action
Chris Benoit vs. Nishimura, Shane Douglas video, Sandman eye injury, Dreamer vs. Sandman (I quit match) bloody, Cactus Jack vs. Sabu WILD!!!, Jason vs. Mikey PLUS Public Enemy, Woman, Scorpio, Benoit, Paul E, Cactus, Taz, Malenko and all the stars of ECW.

❑ECW TV TAPE #9 • Features 4 hours of action
Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed (bat match blood bath), Dreamer vs. Cairo (wild braw all over arena BLOODY), Sandman Press Conference, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (bat match title change) Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Sabu almost breaks his neck PLUS Scorpio, Woman, Sandman, Paul E, Dreamer, and all the stars of ECW.

❑ECW TV TAPE #10 • Features 4 hours of action
Brian Pillman & Douglas vs. Scorpio & Simmons, Dean Malenko vs. Scorpio (title change), Jason vs. Scorpio, Sabu & Taz vs. Malenkos & Public Enemy interfere, Cactus Jack vs. Kevin Sullivan WILD!!!, Sandman vs. Dreamer (blood bath) PLUS Douglas, JT Smith, Sabu, Public Enemy, and all the stars of ECW.

SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

❑SMW TV #1 JAN 1994 • 5 HOURS
Bob Armstrong vs. Dick Murdoch • Bodies vs. Furnas Brothers, DWB vs. Brian Lee, Smothers vs. Candito, Bodies attack Paul Morton, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Spicolli PLUS The Moon Dogs, Jim Cornette, Terry Funk, Smothers, Tammy Fytch and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #2 FEB 1994 Features 4 Hours
Terry Funk vs. Bullet, DWB vs. Brian Lee (chain match), R & RX vs. Heavenly Bodies, Bodies & Killer Dyle vs. & R & RX & Bobby Blaze Bloody, Press Conference with Thrill Seekers PLUS Moon Dogs, Doug Furnas, Candito, Tammy Fytch, Jim Cornette, Dutch Mantel, Bruise Brothers, Well Dunn and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #3 MARCH 1994 Features 4 Hours
DWS vs. Hornet, Tom Prichard vs. Tracey Smothers, R & RX vs. Well Dunn, Jim Cornett vs. Armstrong, R & R vs Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #4 APRIL 1994 Features over 4 Hours
R &RX gets jumped by Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX, Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Cornett vs. Armstrong, R & RX vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, VanHorn, and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #5 MAY 1994 Features over 4 Hours
Bruiser Bedlam vs. Smothers (bloody), Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX title change, Candito vs. Ricky Morton, Jake Roberts jumps DWB, Thrill Seekers vs. Well Dunn, Jake Roberts vs. DWB (title change), Randy Savage vs. Bedlam, Candito vs. Morton everyone comes in PLUS Armstrong, Tammy, Candito, R& RX & Bedlam, Dory Funk and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #6 JUNE 1994 Features...
Blaze & Furnas vs Lee & Candito, Smothers vs. Ninja, Well Dunn vs. Seekers, R &RX surprise Tammy with Bambi, DWB vs. Ninja (Jake Robers interferes), Jake & DWB brawl, Smothers gets attacked by DWB PLUS Armstrongs, Candito, Lee, Cornette, R & RX, Thrill Seekers and all the stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #7 JULY 1994 Features...
Smothers vs. Killer Kyle, Jake, DDT's, Bambi and DWB saves her, R & RX and Bambi vs. Lee and Candito & Tammy, Funks vs. Armstrongs, Bodies jump Thrill Seekers in parking lot, Smothers vs. Brian Lee, Gangstras debut PLUS Terry Gordy, Thrill Seekers, Bodies, Cornette and all the other stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #8 AUGUST 1994 Features...
Lee & Candito vs. Armnstrongs, Slater & Orton vs. Stomper & R. Garvin, Bodies vs. Thrill Seekers-Bloodiest match ever, R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (hair match), R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (title change) Lee turns on Candito, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Lance Storm, R & RX vs. Bodies PLUS Gangstas, Bedlam, Chris Walker and all the other stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #9 SEPT 1994 Features...
Gangstas vs. R & RX (R&RX get injured), R & RX vs. Gangstas re-match) Parking lot brawl with R & RX & Gangstas, Lance Storm vs. Boo Bradley, Brian Lee & Lance Storm vs. Candito & Boo Bradley, Gangstas hang Ricky Morton, Bedlam & Killer Kyle vs. Smothers & Armstrong PLUS tons of other matches with all the SMW stars.

❑SMW TV #10 OCT 1994 Features...
Boo Bradley vs. Lee, DWB & Bedlam Brawl, Ole Anderson and Bryant Anderson debut, Cactus Jack debut, Gangstas vs. R & RX, New Jack vs. Robert Bibson, Cactus Jack vs. Austin, Gangstas vs. R &RX bar room brawl, DWB vs. Bedlam (whipping match) Abby Video, Cactus & Boo Bradley Brawl, R & RX vs. Gangstas bloody brawl PLUS other matches with all the stars of SMW.

SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

❑SMW TV #11 NOV 1994 Features...
Bryant Anderson and Smothers confrontation, Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Lance Storm wild brawl, Cornett and Armstrong argue, Cactus Jack feud clips, Cornette & Bedlam training video, Jim Cornette asks Gangstas to let him manage them, but they turn him down, PLUS Candito, Boo Bradley, Smothers, Anderson and all the other stars of SMW.

❑SMW TV #12 DEC 1994 Features...
Gangstas attack Armstrong, Anderson attacks Smothers, Cactus Jack vs. Candito, Gangstas vs. Armstrongs, Buddy Landel attacks DWB, Cactus Jack vs. Boo Bradley, Jim Cornette helps R & RX *amazing!!* DWB & Landel brawl, Lee vs. Landel title change, PLUS Jerry Lawler, Candito, Lee, Smothers, Anderson, Cactus, and all the other stars of SMW.

USWA

❑USWA TV #1—6 HOURS Features...
PG13 vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Gilbert & Machine, Tommy Rich & Gilbert vs. Moon Dogs, Tommy Rich vs. Jerry Lawler & Gilbert & Rich vs. Lawler & Brian Christopher, Sid Vicious interferes GREAT!!! PLUS PG13, Koko B Ware, Master of Orient, Jef Gaylord, and all the stars of USWA.

❑USWA TV #2—6 HOURS Features...
Tommy Rich vs. Lawler (barbed wire blood bath), Christopher and Moon Dogs vs. Gilbert & Rich & Machine, Spellbinder vs. Christopher, Sid Vicious jumps Gaylord, Doug Gilbert vs. Brian Christopher plus PG 13, Eliminators, Sid Vicious, Huber Reggie B Fine.

❑USWA TV #3—6 HOURS Features...
Gilbert vs. Christopher (Car vs. title), Buddy Landel debut, Sid Vicious attacks Lawler, Landel turns on Christopher, Sid Vicious vs. Tanaka, Moon Dogs v s. Rich & Landel (blood bath), Lawler vs. Spellbinder, Moon Dogs get jumped by Rich & Landel, Lawler & Idol vs. Sid Vicious & Huber PLUS all the other stars of USWA.

❑USWA TV #4—6 HOURS Features...
Rich & Landel attach Moon Dogs, Landel & Rich vs. PG13 parking lot brawl, Lawler vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Christopher, Sid & Gilbert vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Spellbinder & Fine, Christopher vs. Gilbert (Hair vs. Hair), Dark Patriot vs. Christopher, all the other stars of USWA.

❑USWA TV #5—6 HOURS Features...
Sid Vicious & Gilbert vs. Lawler & Christopher, PG 13 & Miss Texas vs. Phantoms & Fantasia, Lawler vs. Gilbert, Rich vs. Lawler, bloody locker room brawl, Mable vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Rich, Moon Dogs vs. Cadillac Brother PLUS Spellbinder, Landel, PG13, and all the other stars of USWA.

❑USWA TV #6—6 HOURS Features...
Rich & Landel feud clips, Lawler & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert PLUS a bloody locker room brawl, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Gilbert & Dowden vs. Lawler & Dundee & Christopher, Rich vs. Landel, Gaylord vs. Spellbinder, Bruise Brothers debut, Lawler & Dundee & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert & Machine, PLUS tons of other matches with all the USWA stars.

❑USWA TV #7—6 HOURS Features...
Lawler & Sid brawl, Rich vs. Christopher, Dundee & Gilbert brawl, Rich & Christopher brawl, PG 13 & Dundee vs. Spellbinder & Gilbert & Rich, best of Memphis 10 man tag match PLUS tons of year in review matches with Funk, Sid Vicious, Lawler, Dundee, Rich, Landel and all of the other stars of USWA.

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SPORTS REVIEW TRIVIA

Each issue, Sports Review Wrestling will test your knowledge of the mats with a challenging series of quizzes!

In this issue, trivia master and wrestling expert Don Laible has assembled 30 questions. Credit yourself with three points for each correct answer, for a possible total of 90 points.

We're grading as follows:

81-90: World champion
66-80: Prime contender
51-65: Mid-level competitor
36-50: Preliminary wrestler
0-35: Still in wrestling school

Good luck! (Answers on page 64)

WHO WON WHAT?

Match the tag team with the title they held. Keep in mind that all titles are listed as they were named.

1. Makhan Singh & Gary Albright
2. Abbuda Dein & The Grappler
3. Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy
4. Marty Jannetty & Shawn Michaels
5. Jimmy Jack Funk & John Tatum
6. Kendo Nagasaki & Mr. Pogo
7. Detroit Demolition & D.I. Bob Carter
8. "Outlaw" Ron Bass & One Man Gang
9. Arn Anderson & Jerry Stubbs
10. Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner

a. Texas
b. National
c. Southeastern
d. Continental Wrestling Federation
e. Pacific Wrestling Federation
f. International
g. United States
h. Southern
i. Pacific Northwest
j. World Wrestling Council

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Manager Johnny Valiant's original Dream Team in the WWF was comprised of Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine.
2. In 1986, the tag team of Sting and Rick Steiner was managed by Gen. Skandor Akbar.
3. The Fabulous Moolah was once a co-holder of the WWF World Women's tag team title.
4. Dan Spivey, Steve Williams, Rick Steiner, and Mike Rotundo comprised Kevin Sullivan's Varsity Club in the late-1980s.
5. Hillbilly Jim is billed as being from Mudlick, Kentucky.
6. When Verne Gagne retired as a wrestler on May 10, 1981, Rick Martel was awarded the AWA World title since he was the number-one contender at the time.
7. The late Wilbur Snyder once played for the NFL's Los Angeles Rams.
8. Angelo Poffo's last match took place in 1985 against Chris Markoff in Memphis, Tennessee.
9. Before arriving in the WWF as Men on a Mission, Mabel and Mo competed in the USWA as The Harlem Knights.
10. Roddy Piper's hometown is Glasgow, Scotland.

MARTY JANNETTY & SHAWN MICHAELS

ODDS & ENDS

1. Alberto Madril lost the NWA junior heavy weight title to which wrestler in 1979?
   a. Nelson Royal
   b. Terry Taylor
   c. Ron Starr
2. Who was Steve Austin's val et when he won the WCW TV title in 1991?
   a. Missy Hyatt
   b. Alexandria York
   c. Lady Blossom
3. Before the WCW U.S. tag title was abandoned in 1991, the final champions were:
   a. Ron Simmons & Big Josh
   b. Dick Slater & The Barbarian
   c. Terry Taylor & Greg Valentine
4. Whom did Barry Windham defeat in a tournament final to win the NWA Western States Heritage belt in 1987?
   a. Larry Zbyszko
   b. Black Bart
   c. Tommy Rich
5. Which wrestler held the AWA heavyweight title for only seven days?
   a. Dick the Bruiser
   b. Otto Wanz
   c. Crusher
6. The second holder of the International Championship Wrestling heavyweight title was:
   a. Tony Atlas
   b. Jonathan Boyd
   c. Moondog Spike
7. In what city did P.Y. Chu-Hi win the USWA Texas title in 1989?
   a. Wichita Falls, TX
   b. Dallas, TX
   c. Brownsville, TX
8. Harley Race held the Missouri State heavyweight title more times than any other wrestler. How many times did he hold it?
   a. 9
   b. 7
   c. 4
9. While wrestling in the Central States region during the 1960s, he was billed as K.O. Cox. In other promotions during the 1970s and 1980s, he competed as:
   a. Bob Geigel
   b. Porkchop Cash
   c. "Bruiser" Bob Sweetan
10. During the 1980s, the tag team known as The Mod Squad—Basher and Spike—were managed at one point by:
   a. J.D. Costello
   b Gary Royal
   c. Paul Jones

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Sting hails from which California beach community?
1) Malibu
2) Pacific Heights
3) Venice Beach
4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?
1) The Grand Wizard
2) Capt. Lou Albano
3) Fred Blassie
4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.
1) True
2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?
1) Sting
2) Steve Austin
3) Rick Steiner
4) Scott Steiner

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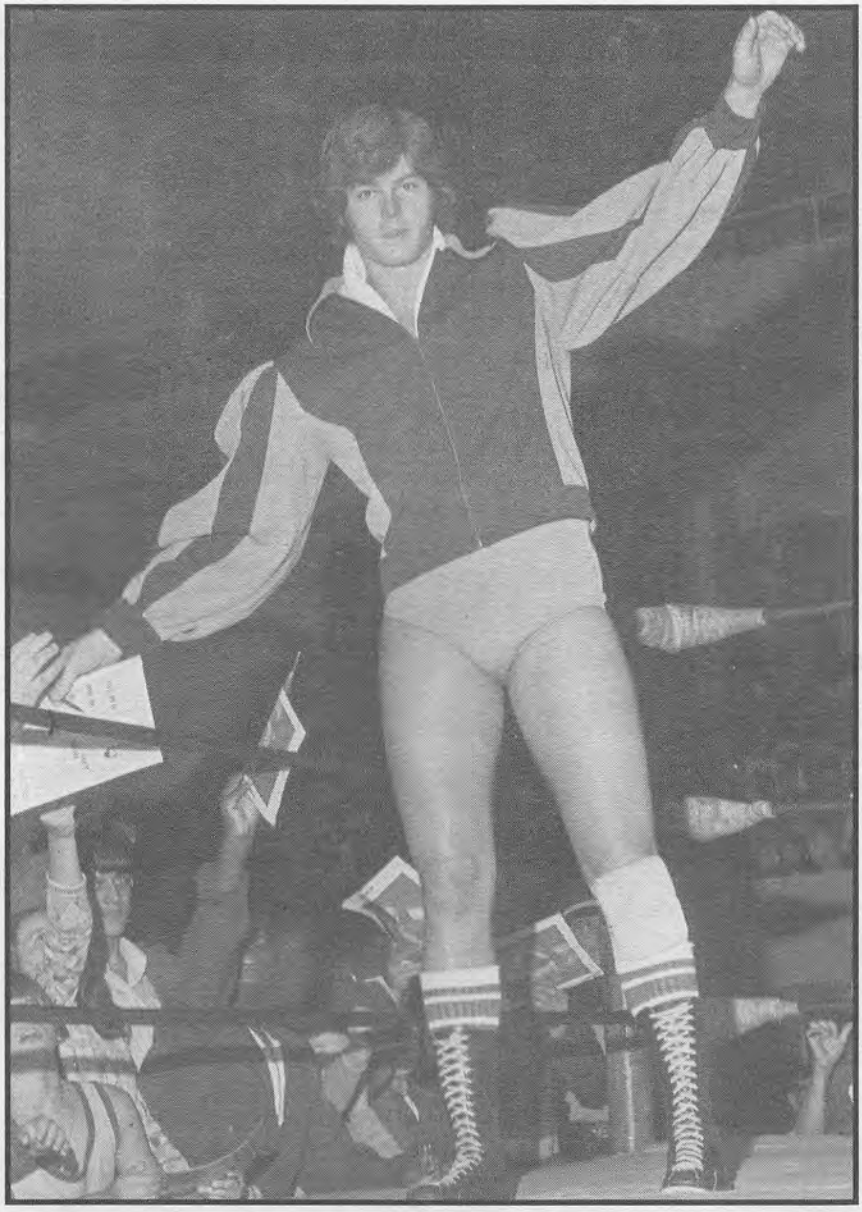
MYSTERY WRESTLER

Can You Guess Who He Is?

Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING digs into the deepest photo archives in the wrestling world to try and stump the sport's most knowledgeable experts—our readers!



HINTS:

1. He and his brother and father wrestled throughout the South during the 1970s. His father was a major star in the 1950s and '60s.

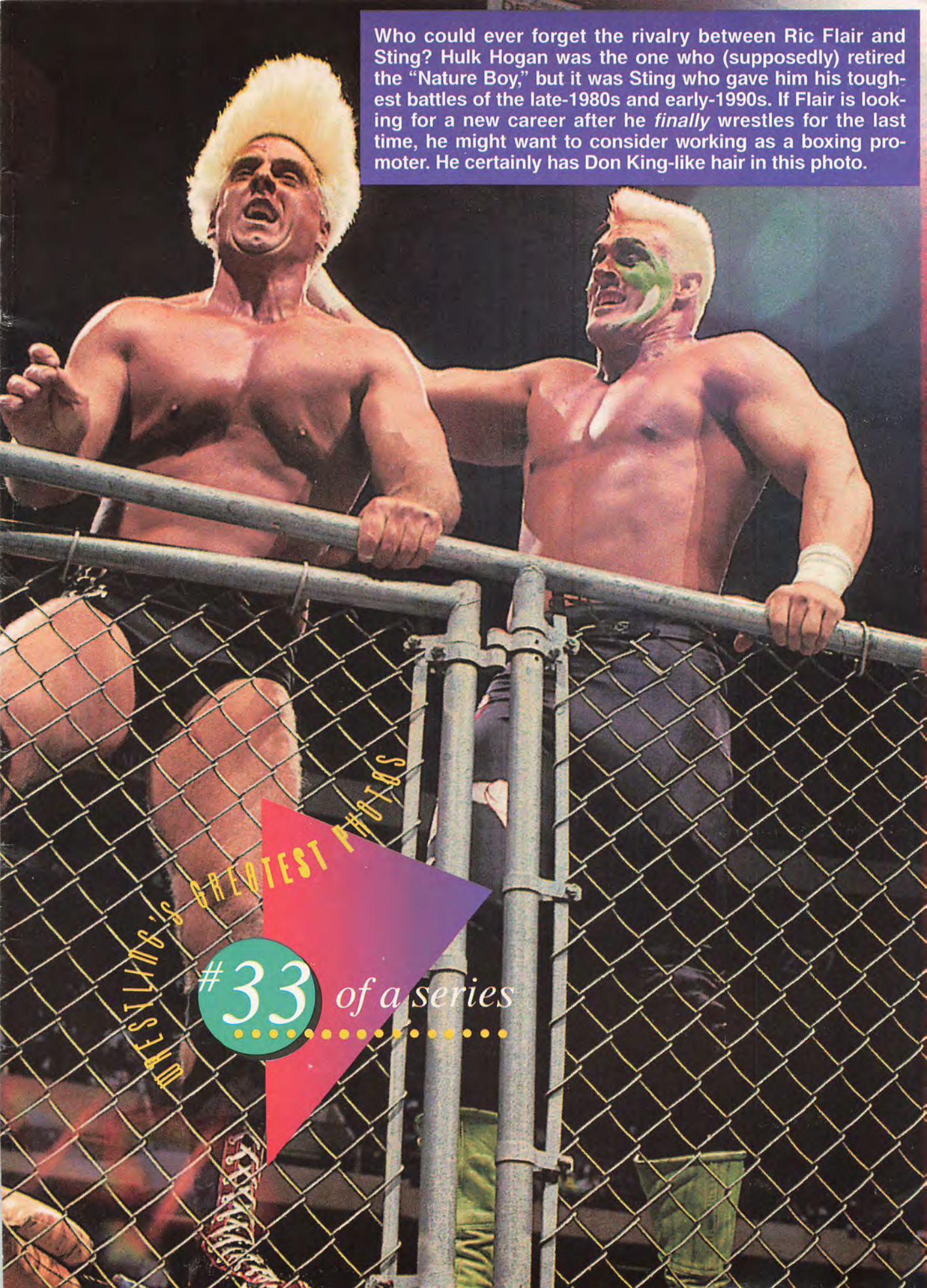
2. He wrestled under a name that is different from the one he uses today.

3. He always complained about the interference of managers like Sir Clements and tried to get managers banned from ringside.

4. He is currently making a name for himself in World Championship Wrestling.

5. Most WCW fans hate him and consider him to be a real "chicken."

ANSWER ON PAGE 64



Who could ever forget the rivalry between Ric Flair and Sting? Hulk Hogan was the one who (supposedly) retired the "Nature Boy," but it was Sting who gave him his toughest battles of the late-1980s and early-1990s. If Flair is looking for a new career after he *finally* wrestles for the last time, he might want to consider working as a boxing promoter. He certainly has Don King-like hair in this photo.

A little blood smeared on his forehead and in his eyes couldn't stop Dusty Rhodes from finding a target for his devastating elbowsmash. It was a simple move, but also a very effective one. His target on this night was a bloody King Curtis, maybe the toughest rulebreaker ever to come out of Hawaii.

SPORTS REVIEW SUPERSTATS

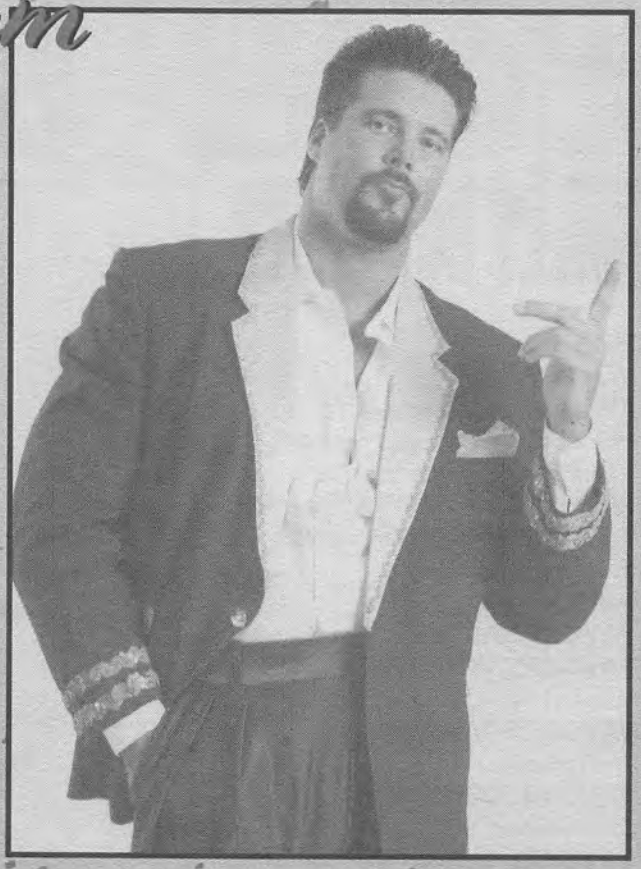
Ever wonder what a wrestler's personal preferences are? His favorite comedian, hobby, or color? Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will provide you with inside information about your favorite mat stars!

DAVEY BOY SMITH

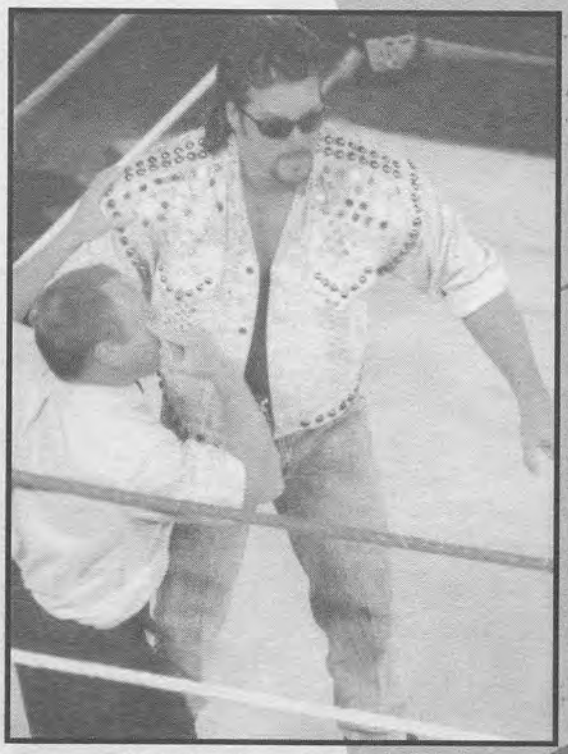
HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 245
BIRTHDATE: November 27
HOMETOWN: Leeds, England
YEARS PRO: 18
FAVORITE MANEUVER: Powerslam
FAVORITE WRESTLER: Stu Hart
FAVORITE ACTOR: Anthony Hopkins
FAVORITE ACTRESS: Jane Seymour
FAVORITE MOVIE: *Monty Python And The Holy Grail*
FAVORITE TV SHOW: *Monty Python*
FAVORITE COMEDIAN: John Cleese
FAVORITE BAND: The Rolling Stones
FAVORITE SINGER: David Bowie
FAVORITE SONG: "Start Me Up," The Rolling Stones
FAVORITE CAR: Mitsubishi 3000GT
LAST BOOK READ: Robin Cook, *Acceptable Risk*
LAST MOVIE SEEN: *Pulp Fiction*
FAVORITE COLOR: Blue
FAVORITE FOOD: Fish 'n' chips
FAVORITE HOBBIES: Weightlifting, rugby
FAVORITE NUMBER: 7
FAVORITE ATHLETE: Nick Faldo
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: The Bahamas
PERSON I WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Princess Diana

Diesel's Photo Album

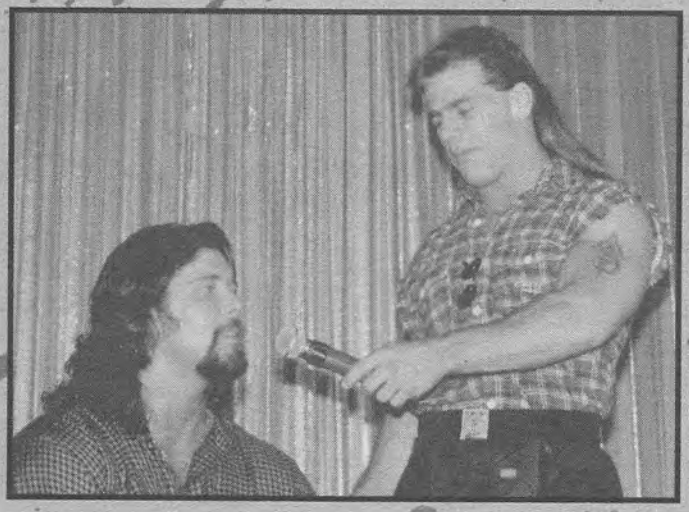
SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING possesses the largest photo files in the wrestling world. In this feature, we highlight some of the most unusual shots of some of the sport's most enduring personalities!



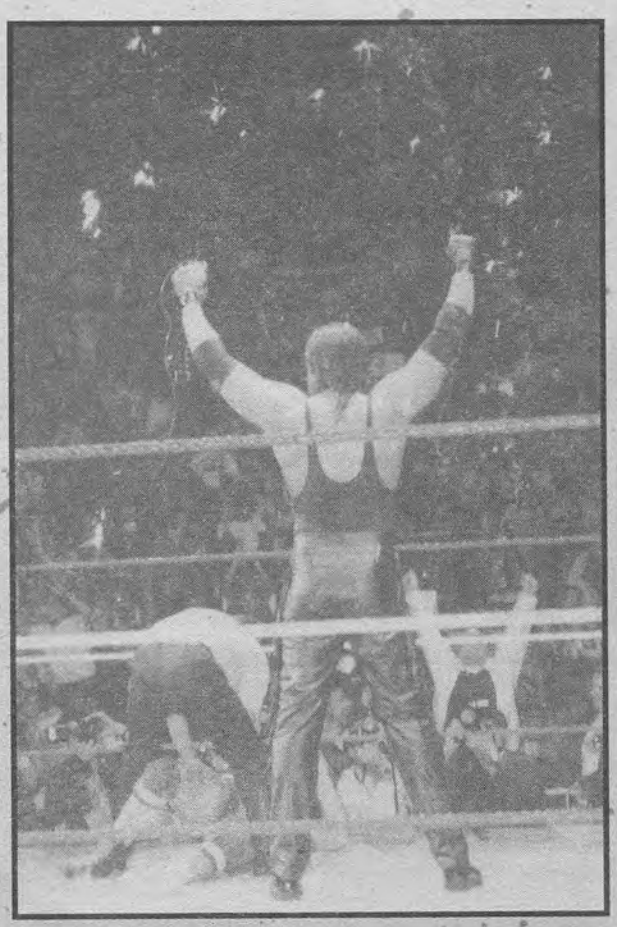
1 This is "Diesel" in his early years. The big man first rose to prominence in WCW when he used the name Oz. But things didn't go his way, and he changed his name to Vinnie Vegas; he was briefly managed by Harley Race.



2 The look and name changed again when the seven-footer made his debut in the WWF in 1993. He was rechristened Diesel, and he kept all the WWF's fan favorites from attacking Shawn Michaels, for whom he served as a bodyguard.

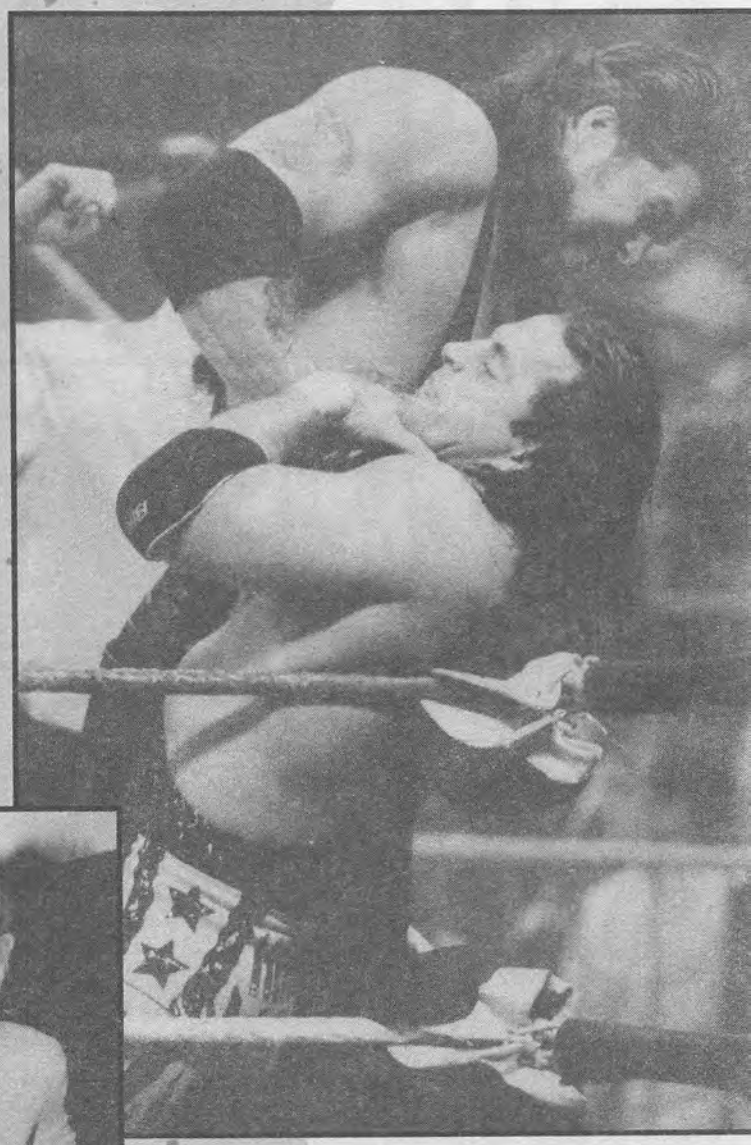


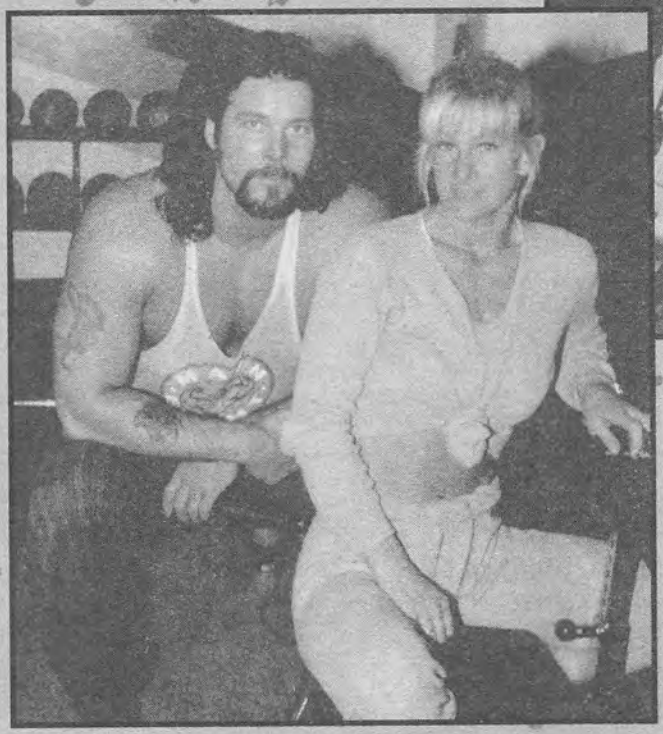
3 This is one of the few times you'll see Diesel and Michaels having a civilized conversation. The two are arch-rivals, but Diesel kept his composure and answered a few of Shawn's questions at a recent press conference.



4 The fireworks exploded on November 27, 1994, at Madison Square Garden. That was the night Diesel ended Bob Backlund's three-day reign as WWF World champ by pinning him in eight seconds.

5 The first time Diesel met Bret Hart, at King of the Ring 1994, he was a rulebreaker. The second time they met, at the 1995 Royal Rumble, "Big Daddy Cool" was a fan favorite ... and the WWF World champion.





6 Diesel spends a lot of time in the gym working on his already impressive physique. On occasion, he runs into Alundra Blayze, the former WWF World Women's champion.

Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will look back through wrestling history to one of the sport's greatest and most significant bouts!

WRESTLING'S GREATEST MATCHES

VICTOR RIVERA VS. BLACK GORDMAN

February 1974

Black Gordman delivered punch after punch, many of them with a pair of brass knuckles, against Rivera in this intense lumberjack match; Rivera refused to go down to defeat.

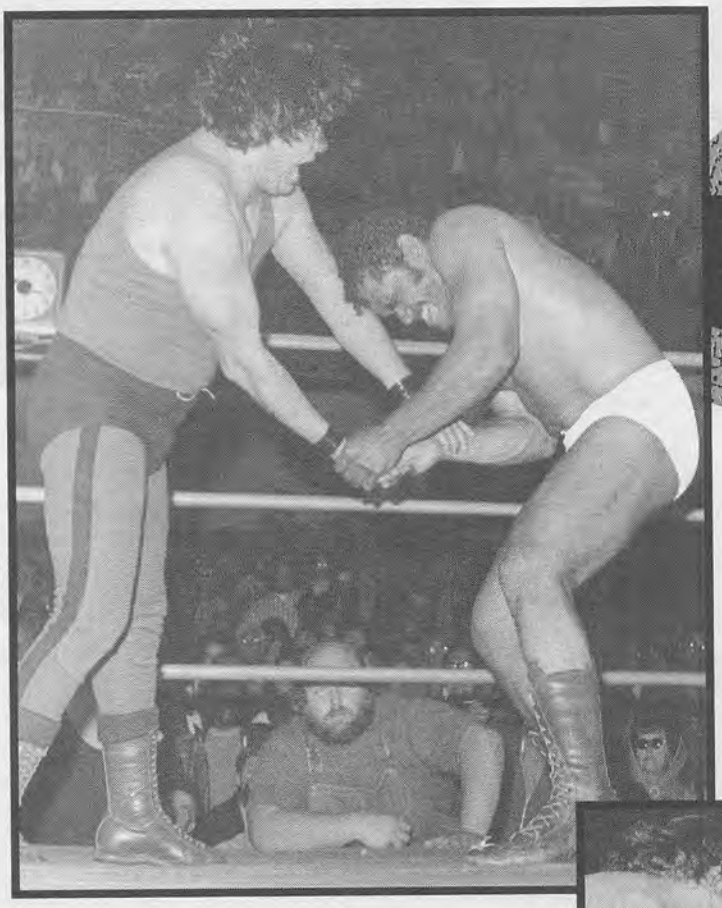
THE FEUD BETWEEN Victor Rivera and Black Gordman raged on for more than two bloody years in the early-1970s. During that time, their matches kept getting wilder and wilder ... and bloodier and bloodier. Finally, promoters decided drastic measures had to be taken. Rivera and Gordman were signed to a brutal hair vs. hair, lumberjack match at Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium.

For the match, both Rivera and Gordman got to pick four wrestlers who would surround the ring and prevent them from escaping. With the lumberjacks in place at ringside, the two bitter enemies entered the ring.

The match began with a flurry of scientific moves from Rivera, who soon had Gordman screaming out in pain as he was twisted into weird contortions by his foe. Gordman finally worked one hand free and attempted to mount his own vicious attack. He began to poke, twist, pull, and punch his way out of Rivera's grasp, until he finally had his man down. He immediately began choking Rivera.

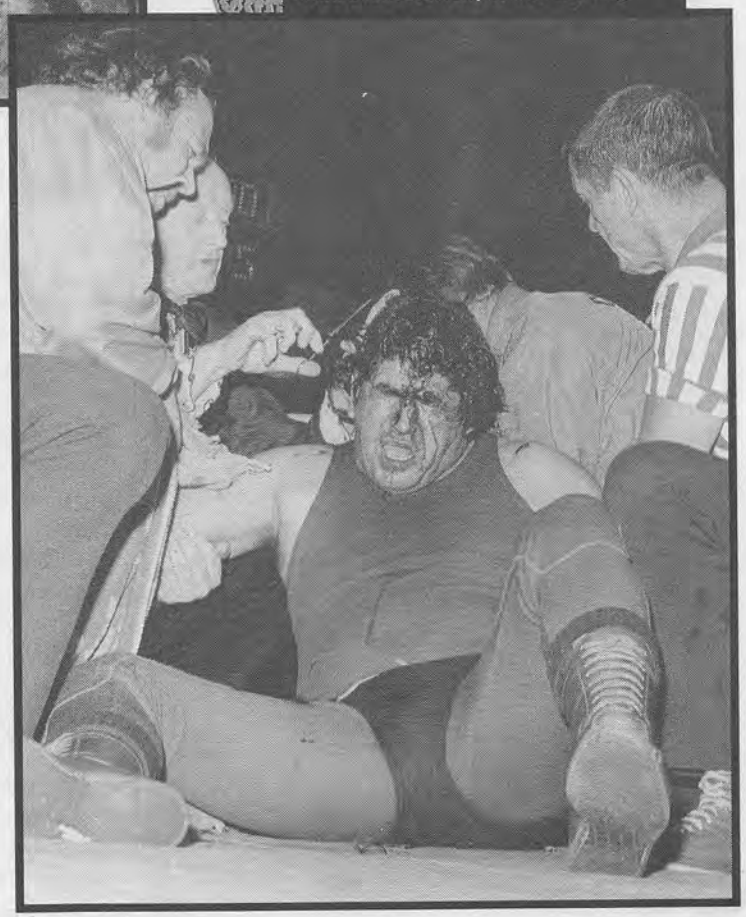
The two men wrestled for almost an hour using practically every hold and maneuver they knew, legal or illegal. With so much as stake, who could blame them?

The momentum shifted back and forth several times until a pair of brass knuckles was tossed into the ring. Gordman was the first to get his hands on them, and he hit Rivera with two devastating punches, causing a stream of blood to



The turning point in the match came when Rivera wrested the knuckles away from Gordman. Once Rivera had the knucks on his hand, Gordman was doomed.

Not only was Gordman's face a bloody mess after the bout, he lost his hair, too. Halfway through the haircut (courtesy of ring announcer Jimmy Lennon), Gorman regained consciousness and tried unsuccessfully to flee the ring.



gush from his forehead. Rivera was dazed and obviously in excruciating pain; Gordman sensed victory.

As Gordman prepared to deliver one final blow, though, Rivera grabbed his hand and squeezed it until Gordman released the brass knuckles.

Once Rivera slipped the brass knuckles onto his own fingers, Gordman knew he was in trouble.

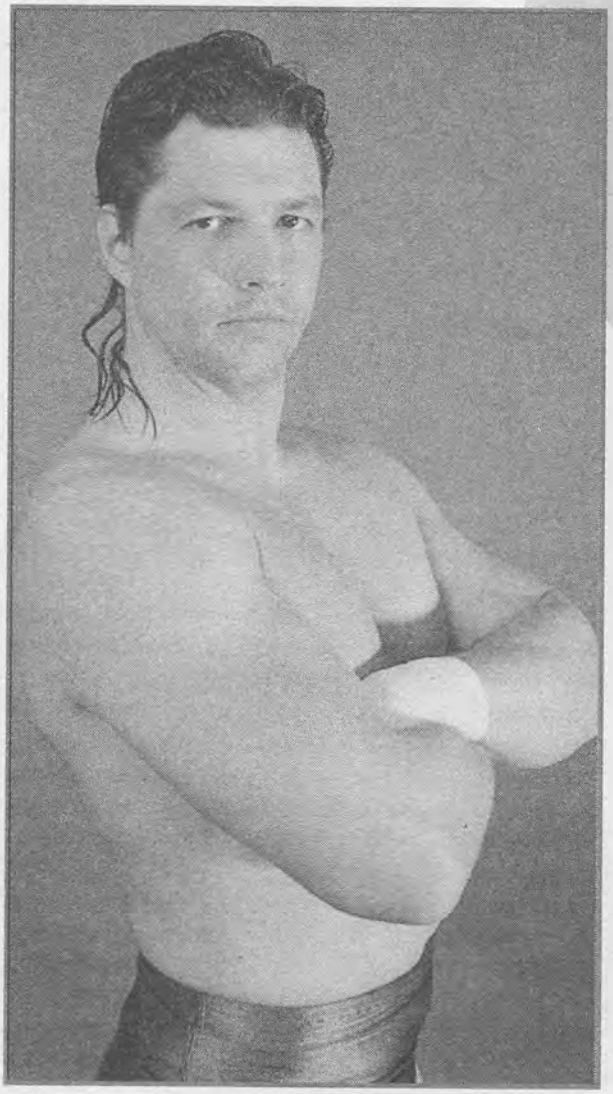
Just six punches later, Gordman was lying unconscious in the middle of the ring, and about to lose his hair. He remained unconscious for only part of his postmatch barbering, though. Halfway through the haircut, Gordman came to and began screaming; he tried to get away, but Rivera made sure that he didn't escape until he was completely bald.

In the end, a bald, battered, and beaten Gordman vowed to gain revenge as he was helped back to the dressing room. ■

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

Al Snow, the superstar nobody knows, is finally making a name for himself–in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Too bad it's a bad name



By Brandi Mankiewicz

AL SNOW HAPPENS to be a very nice guy. I know that for a fact, because I spent a lot of time with him a few months ago while researching the story, "Al Snow: The Veteran Superstar You Never Heard Of" for INSIDE WRESTLING (April 1995), one of our sister publications. I got to know a veteran wrestler with an incredible amount of talent who has gone relatively unnoticed for more than a decade. But Snow wasn't at all bitter about his situation. He was patiently working toward getting his big chance.

At the time, Snow's biggest claims to fame were a few matches with former ECW heavyweight champion Sabu—he was one of the few who could match moves with the daredevil from India—and an appearance as the trainer of Dan Severn at Ultimate Fighting Championship IV in December. Al had—still has, in fact—his own wrestling gym in Ohio and was enjoying teaching youngsters how to wrestle.

But I wonder what he's teaching those young kids now. And I wonder how it's possible that humble Al Snow has become "Simply Sensational" Al Snow, the wrestler more and more people are getting to know.

"It's easy," Snow explained. "I got tired of sitting around waiting for some pencil-necked promoter to give me my big break, so I did what doers do: I went out and made my

own breaks. I decided to stop letting people walk all over me and did a little walking of my own. You know what it was? That story, "The Superstar You Never Heard Of," got me thinking. At first, I was happy to get some publicity, but then when I thought about it and really examined the situation, I took it as the insult it was intended to be."

No insult was ever intended by the story, which was printed solely to introduce wrestling fans to a talent they should know something about. Hundreds of wrestlers come and go in this sport every year, and many of them pass without getting noticed by more than a handful of fans at some high school gym. Some of those aspiring stars have a lot of talent, but stardom has a lot to do with luck and being in the right place at the right time. It has to do with having the right people notice you.

We decided to pay some attention to Al Snow.

It apparently went to his head.

"Yeah, maybe it did," Snow admitted. "But look at the payoff. Two months ago, I was doing nothing. Nobody knew who I was. Now look at what's happening."

What's happening is that Snow and tag team partner Unibomb are battling The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the SMW tag title. Snow is getting a chance to prove himself against one of the most famous tag teams of all-time, and if he and Unibomb win the belts, they'll be ranked with the top tandems in the world.

"And then," said Al Snow, the arrogant superstar people are starting to find out too much about, "everybody will know who I am. I won't have to call promoters and beg for chances. They'll come begging for me."

Unfortunately, nobody will ever get to know the real Al Snow, the humble, hard-working, dedicated Al Snow—the man who, until recently, never had a bad word to say about anybody.

A man who never would have dreamed about calling himself "Simply Sensational." Too bad it had to come to this. ■

Al Snow's belly-to-back suplex is among the best in the sport (above). Still, does that give him the right to call himself "Simply Sensational"? The nice, humble Al Snow is nowhere to be found today. Snow threw several incredible dropkicks against Chris Benoit in his final ECW match (right). He says he was thrilled to finally get some publicity, but soon decided he had to start making his own breaks.

BLAYZE'S Plans Go Up In Smoke

She Needs The Belt — And She Needs It Now!

Alundra Blayze has been frustrated by her inability to regain the WWF world Women's title from Bull Nakano. Women's wrestling may be suffering even more than Blayze is

Photos by Koichi Yoshizawa

By Steve Anderson

A FUNNY THING happened to WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze on her way to increasing the visibility and credibility of women's wrestling: She lost her title to Bull Nakano.

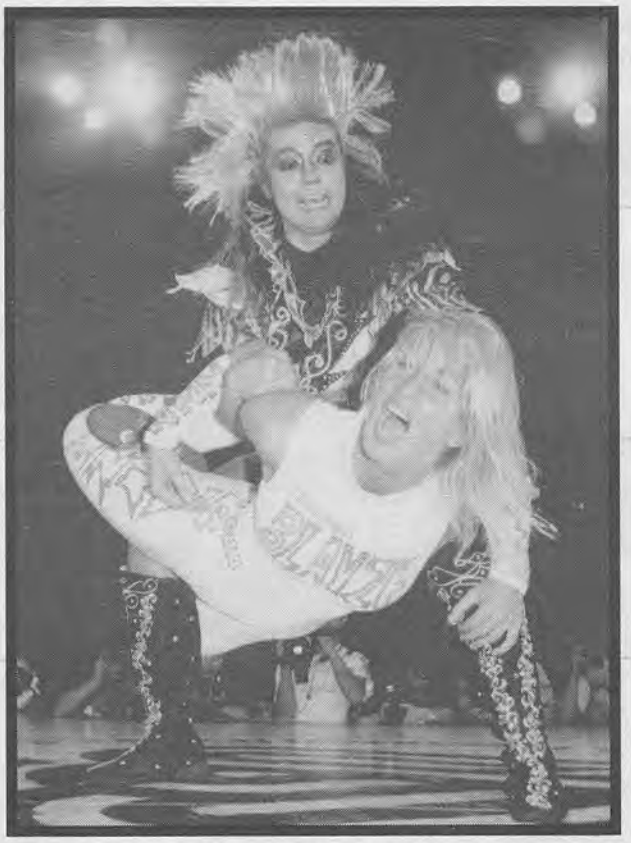
Women's professional wrestling has had its share of pioneers attempting to blaze new trails and bring women's wrestling to the forefront—women such as Wendi Richter, Terri Power, Reggie Bennett, and Sherri Martel.

Then along came Alundra Blayze.

In her former persona, Madusa Miceli, she quickly rose to the top of the AWA, winning that federation's Women's title in 1987. She later became a superstar in Japan and held a high-profile position in WCW as Director of Covert Operations in Paul E. Dangerously's WCW version of The Dangerous Alliance.

But that was never enough.

Her goal was to resurrect women's wrestling in a promotion that could provide visibility on a worldwide level. With her



Bull Nakano had Alundra Blayze tied up in knots the day she won the WWF World Women's title from her. Now, as the federation's number-*two* woman wrestler, Blayze can't do much to boost the popularity of women's wrestling.

Nakano gets a lot of pleasure out of causing Alundra physical pain in their matches. She is probably also thrilled that she is preventing Blayze from accomplishing a goal that is so important to her.

previous notoriety, Blayze could do for women's wrestling what Hulk Hogan did for wrestling in general in the mid-1980s ... or at least she thought. Naturally, when word spread of the WWF's intention to reinstate the World Women's championship in 1993, she was the first to sign up for the tournament.

A heavy favorite going in, she dominated all the competition and easily won the title. She immediately started working to increase the visibility of the title. A short feud with Luna Vachon that evolved into a time-consuming feud with Bull Nakano was the only thing standing in her way of an international wrestling and talk show tour.

She easily handled Luna. Then she defeated Nakano numerous times.

Except for one. On November 27, 1994, Nakano won the title from Blayze in a match witnessed by more than 43,000 fans at the Tokyo Dome. Blayze's plans were dashed.

Blayze had a clear agenda. Not only did she want to defend the title on a nightly basis all over the world, but she also wanted to show the public that this title was as legitimate and as prestigious as any in the world. She had tentatively booked appearances on major sports and talk shows on network and cable television. Her status as a revolutionary women's champ in an age of equal opportunity was attractive to producers. She was clearly on her way.

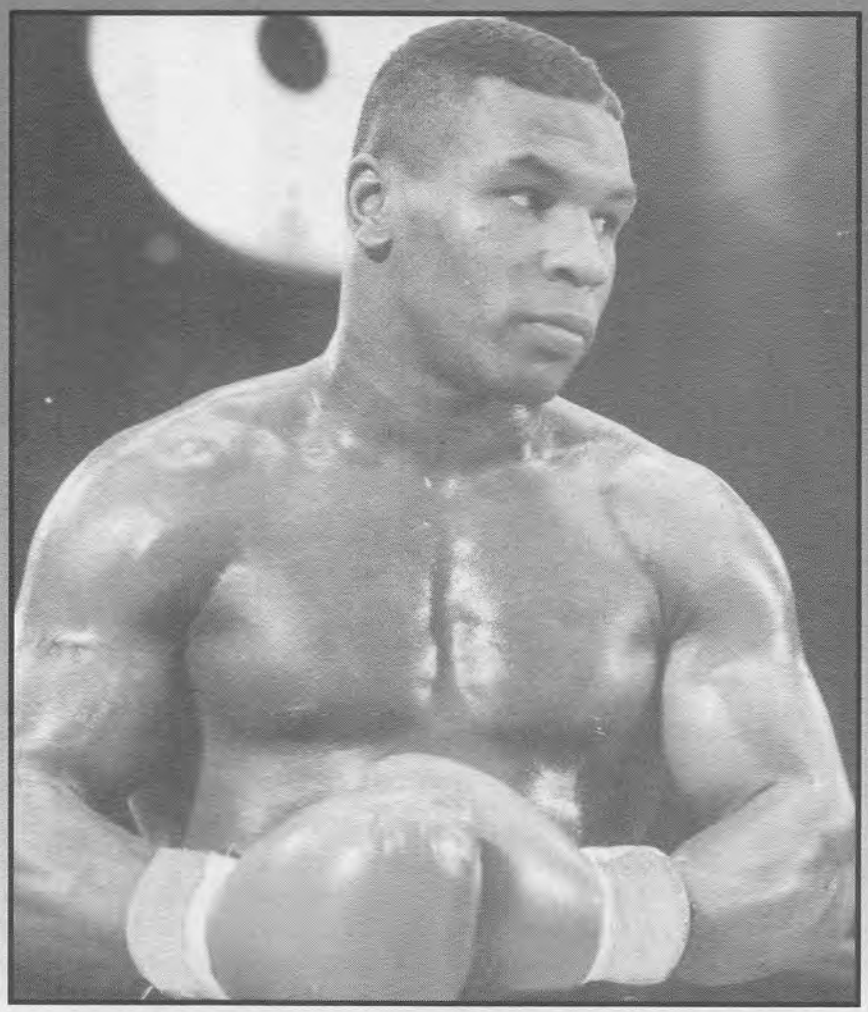
But without the title, Blayze is just one of many challengers. Those producers wanted the champ, and Blayze only wanted to appear as the champ—the standard-bearer for all to follow.

Now Nakano wants to make sure Alundra never gets that chance again. In most of the Blayze-Nakano matches since the title changed hands in Japan, Nakano has won by pinfall with her feet on the ropes.

"Nakano doesn't care about women's wrestling in America or what people think of it," said Heidi Lee Morgan, who has both wrestled against and teamed with Blayze. "Alundra's dedication is admirable. It helps all of us. She was all set to turn the world on its ear. Now she's back at square one."

So Blayze's goals are clear: regain the title and again try to resurrect women's wrestling. Just don't expect Nakano to provide a clear path for Blayze to do it. Expect her to be an obstacle—a very big and brawny obstacle. Until Blayze finds a way to clear away that obstacle, women's wrestling will remain on the sport's back burner. ■

JOHNNY B.'S BADD INTENTIONS:



Johnny B. Badd is on a mission to become the first man in history to hold world titles in two sports ... at the same time!

By Eddie Ellner

EVER SINCE JOHNNY B. Badd got a taste of championship life, he has thought of little else. "The feeling of that gold around here," he said, pointing to his 32-inch waist, "there's just not a better sensation in the whole world."

So great an impression did the WCW TV belt make upon Johnny B. Badd that he has set his sights on the ultimate championship jewel: the world heavyweight championship—and he doesn't necessarily mean the one proudly worn by current WCW World champion Hulk Hogan.

"That's a nice belt, but it's not the metal I'm talking about," Badd said. "I want the one Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis wore."

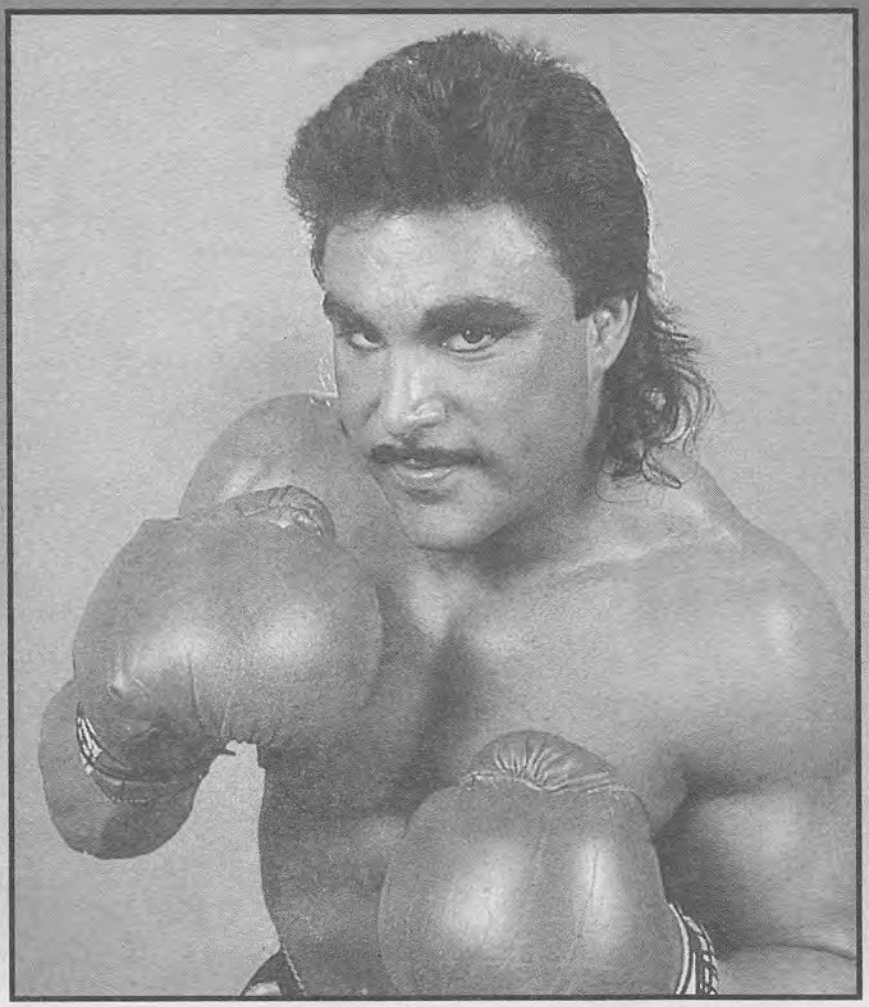
Johnny B. Badd as the next heavyweight boxing champion of the world is not as ludicrous as it sounds. Badd was a golden gloves prodigy who surrendered the gloves to pursue a wrestling career. His natural abilities, combined with the sorry state of the heavyweight boxing division, would make him a natural contender. But Badd, true to form, says he has bigger fish to fry.

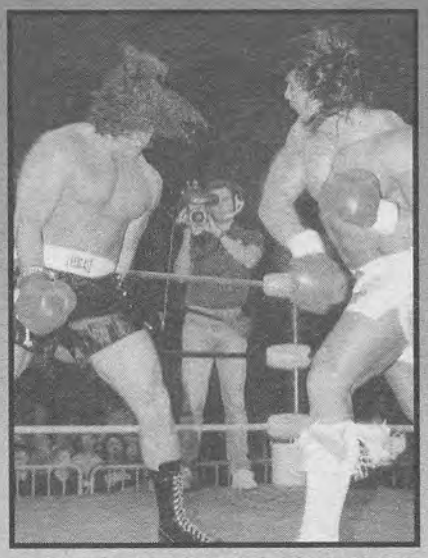
"I don't have time to go through the ranks," he proclaimed. "And I sure don't want to be fighting George Foreman. I intend to win the WCW World championship and then challenge Mike Tyson to a match—boxer vs. wrestler, or should I say, boxer vs. boxer/wrestler!"

Tyson's release from jail was scheduled for March 25. Allowing "Iron" Mike a few months to get into fighting shape and a few preliminary bouts to regain his eye, a late-autumn bout would suit Johnny B. Badd just fine.

"Let's shoot the turkey on Thanksgiving, just like Rocky did," Badd exclaimed. "I want it all, and

FIGHT MIKE TYSON!





Anyone who doesn't think Johnny B. Badd is much of a boxer anymore need only look at what he did to Scotty Flamingo in boxing matches a few years ago. Johnny B. packs a powerful punch!

I want it soon."

Reaction was mixed to Badd's extraordinary goals. "I like a man who dreams big," said Hulk Hogan. "But, unfortunately, the road to the WCW World heavyweight title is through me, and that road is permanently closed."

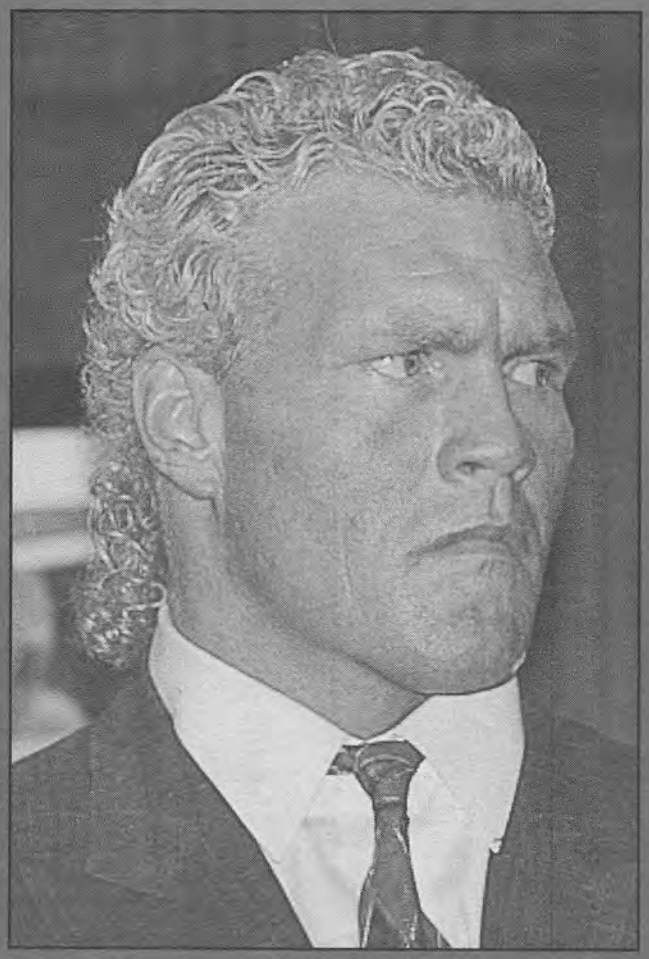
"Johnny B. Badd wants to box Mike Tyson?" questioned *KO Magazine* Managing Editor Nigel Collins. "If you ask me, they should call him Johnny B. Stupid. Tyson would pulverize him into bite-sized Chicken McNuggets. It'd be real ugly to watch."

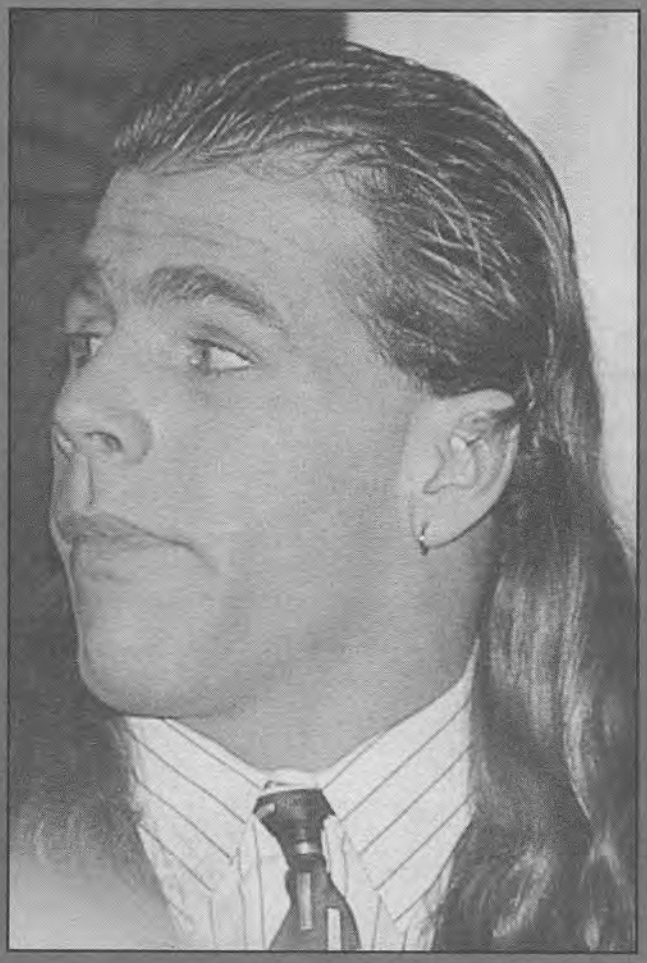
"I've seen Johnny do some amazing things in the ring," said a more sympathetic Sting. "The problem is that the crossing over between the two sports gets confusing. He must decide what he wants to be. I think the boxing training has helped his wrestling, but you can tell he still thinks like a boxer a lot of the time. I'm afraid if he puts the gloves back on, he still might try to dropkick Tyson out of the ring."

"Nobody tells Deion Sanders he should pack up his cleats or his spikes and play just one sport," Badd countered. "If I can perform at a high level in both sports, then why shouldn't I? I think the two sports complement each other. They help raise my overall skill level, and that can only help me."

One WCW promoter said he didn't think a Badd-Tyson bout would ever come about. "I'm sure Tyson just wants to get out, and then he'll start considering opponents," he said. "Personally, I don't think he'll want to face Johnny B. I think Johnny could beat him."

"What a fool believes, he sees," Badd said. "And this young fool sees himself with two title belts around his waist. Like the song goes—don't dream it, be it. That's me, baby ... champion of the world." ■





S I D

By Dave Rosenbaum

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED with Diesel, you'd think Shawn Michaels would need a bodyguard as much as O.J. Simpson would need another next-door neighbor. Shawn's time with Diesel might have been well-spent for a while, but before long, the only body Diesel was guarding was his own. Michaels became a used piece of meat.

But here he goes again, reaching out to the disadvantaged, the not-so-poor, the not-so-needy, and the not-at-all-weak. When Shawn Michaels hires a bodyguard, he hires a big boy.

First Diesel.

Then Sid Vicious.

The old saying "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me," never had more meaning.

Michaels might think he needs a bodyguard, but Vicious has as much use for full-time security work as Diesel had for a tag team partner.

Beware of your imminent demise, Shawn: SID!

"Sid is using Michaels," said a WWF rulebreaker. "There's no doubt Vicious considered Michaels his ticket back into the WWF. By doing it this way, he doesn't have to climb any ladders or worry about preliminary matches. His strategy is clear as day: Stick around with Michaels for a few months, play the part of the loyal bodyguard, collect a nice, large paycheck, and then go for Michaels' neck. *Bam!* He's in title contention."

Psycho Sid—that's what some people in the WWF are calling him now, although Sid has never seemed psychotic, just a little misguided—is coming off an impressive stint in the USWA, where he won the heavyweight title from Jerry Lawler, defended it against

BEWARE OF SHAWN'S IMMINENT DEMISE

the top competition in the federation (and WWF invaders), and lost the belt only when he got tired of wearing it, and The Spellbinder's constant interference backfired.

On to bigger and better things. Shawn Michaels called and said, "Sid, how'd you like a full-time job with me?" Sid asked him what job, and Michaels replied, "The same job Diesel used to have."

You'd better believe Psycho Sid took that statement literally.

Diesel's job, in addition to guarding Michaels' much-sought-after butt, meant learning how to win from Michaels, taking notes on the top wrestlers in the federation, and slowly establishing himself as a wrestling force with which the world had to reckon. In one amazing year, Diesel won the World tag team title with Michaels, captured the Intercontinental belt on his own, and beat Bob Backlund for the WWF World title in a match that lasted all of eight seconds.

He also dumped an enraged Michaels.

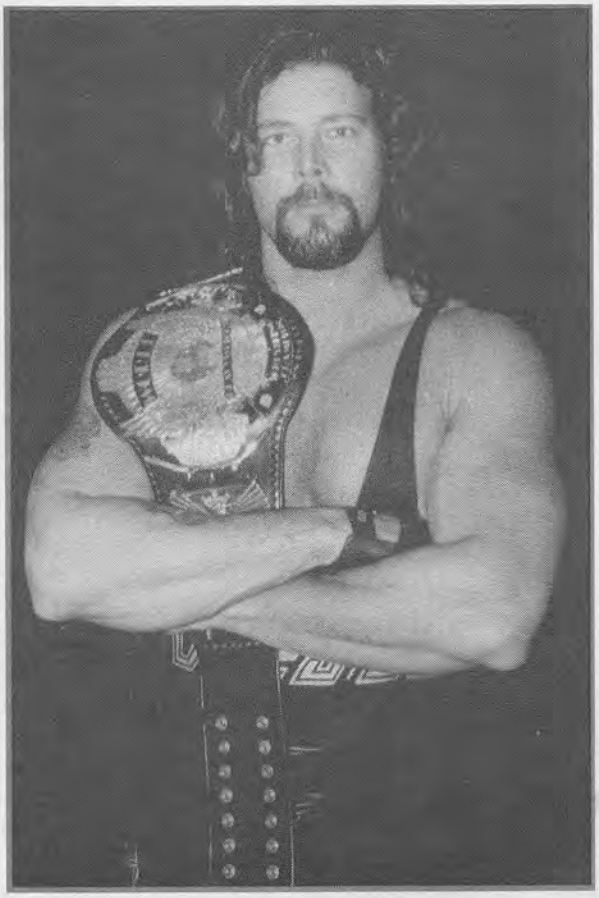
Sid, who watched all this carefully, wouldn't mind following the same recipe.

"I told Shawn to watch out for this guy," said Jim Cornette. "I wouldn't trust him with my last dime, and neither should Shawn. If you ask me, Sid means trouble and nothing but trouble, and the difference is that Sid is stronger and meaner than Diesel. Personally, I don't see why Shawn needs a bodyguard."

It's a mental thing, Jimbo. Famous, wealthy people have bodyguards, and Michaels considers himself a famous, wealthy person.

Who just happens to use very poor judgment in choosing his bodyguards. ■

If Shawn Michaels were as smart as he claims to be, he never would have gone out and hired another hulking bodyguard who could one day ruin him!

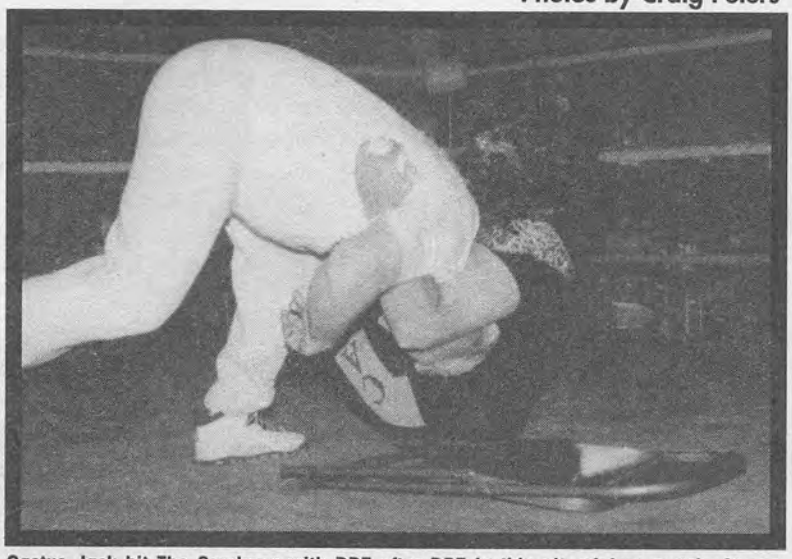


Like Sid, Diesel became Michaels' bodyguard after several disappointing years as a wrestler. Then, in a span of seven months, he won the WWF World tag team, Intercontinental, and World heavyweight titles. Sid will use you, Shawn.

CACTUS JACK PUTS SANDMAN TO SLEEP— For Three Days!

Photos by Craig Peters

A nightmare of an ECW match ended with **Cactus Jack** sending **The Sandman** to dreamland. When he finally woke up, he found himself back in the same nightmare—or so it seemed



Cactus Jack hit The Sandman with DDT after DDT in this ultraviolent match. At one point, he pinned him nine straight times, but because it was a Texas death match, it continued as long as Sandman got up before the count of 10.

By Chris Bernucca

THE REPORTER IS on the telephone with his publisher, explaining why he has to stay in town an extra day, when the woman approaches from the end of the corridor. As she gets closer, you can see that she is running on the fumes of nicotine and caffeine.

"You can see him now," she says. "But just for 10 minutes. He needs rest."

The patient has adjusted the head of his bed to the upright position. "Got a cigarette?" he asks when his guest enters.

"I do, but I don't think the nurses would be happy if you smoked in here," replies the reporter. "How are you feeling? Do you know how you got here?"

A hospital maintenance worker enters the room to empty the wastebaskets. He has long, dark hair and a beard, and his shirt barely contains his midsection. In fact, he looks just like ...

"You!" screams The Sandman. *"I'll kill you!"* He jumps out of bed and

moves toward the maintenance man, but his equilibrium won't cooperate, and he falls to the floor. The maintenance man exits just before a team of nurses arrives.

"You two ... out!" barks one of the nurses to the reporter and the woman. "That's it for today! No more visitors! Why don't you both go home?"

■

The whole mess had started the night before at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. It was a Texas death match, and The Sandman was getting the crap beat out of him by Cactus Jack. Sandman had been pinned nine straight times, but he kept getting up for more; he started to resemble a fallen mannequin at ringside.

Perched on the turnbuckle with a chair, Jack launched an elbowdrop that found its target. The thud of metal against man silenced a crowd that normally lives for this kind of stuff. EMS personnel picked up what was left of Sandman.

Skip ahead to the following afternoon. That morning, Sandman had regained consciousness, but little else. "They let me in the room for five minutes, but only because I'm his manager," said the woman known as Woman. "He asked who I was. Then he asked who he was and asked for a cigarette. That's when the nurse threw me out. Now I'll never get back in there. What did you say to him?"

"Nothing, I swear," said the reporter. "He ... forget it. See you tomorrow."

■

A DDT on the concrete arena floor did terrible damage to Sandman's head and neck. In fact, he felt the effects of that beating for three days!

The phone rang in the hotel room the following morning, two days after the ECW card. "He'll be released today, if his tests come back okay," Woman said.

The reporter got to the hospital just in time to see Sandman, who had suffered a concussion and had a compressed disk in his neck, leaving the hospital in a wheelchair. As soon as he got through the front door, he bounced out of the chair and into a hug from Woman. The reporter approached carefully and was hit with two quick questions before he could ask one himself.

"Got a cigarette?" Sandman said. "Man, how long was I in there?"

"Three days," said the reporter. "Do you remember how you got there?"

Sandman lit his cigarette and took a long, happy drag. His eyes went off to the distance, where he watched a bearded maintenance man push a garbage pail across the parking lot. He stepped off the curb, then stepped back.

"Some of it," he answered. "Call me in a few days. I'll have it all by then."

The reporter took a phone number, said his goodbyes, and left. As he walked away, he could hear Woman ask Sandman what he was staring at.

"Nothing," he answered, and flicked his cigarette to the ground. ■

Revealed!

WHY HULK HOGAN IS IMMUNE TO VADER'S POWER BOMB

It's the move that everybody in wrestling fears: Big Van Vader's devastating power bomb. Hulk Hogan feared it, too, until he felt its power and got up to tell the tale

Photos by Bill Apter

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT HAPPENED THE first time at Clash of the Champions XXX. Big Van Vader rocked Hulk Hogan with a thunderous power bomb and, like he had so many other times with so many other opponents, turned around and left the "Hulkster" for dead.

But Hogan was alive and well. He had survived what nobody else could.

It happened for the second time at SuperBrawl V. Again, Vader executed a power bomb on Hogan. Again, the "Hulkster" got up.

And seemed none the worse for wear. Vader's most powerful weapon had been neutralized, giving Hogan an immense physical and psychological advantage over the most dangerous contender to his WCW World title.

These are the moments that not only change the course of feuds, but change the course of wrestling history. It seemed impossible that Hogan could survive what had nearly crippled so many others. Ask Sting and Ron Simmons. Ask Cactus Jack, who was put out of commission for several months—

Vader dropped Hogan to the mat neck-first with a devastating power bomb for the second time in less than a month at SuperBrawl V. For the second time, Hogan got up afterward. A trip to Japan a few years ago paid off for Hulk.

and, two years later, still hasn't totally recovered—after getting power-bombed on the concrete floor of Atlanta's Center Stage Theater.

It was no mere show of resistance by Hogan, who has also rebounded from Randy Savage's flying elbowsmash, come back from the dead against The Undertaker, and worked his way out of Ric Flair's figure-four leglock.

"Something like that makes you wonder what Hogan is really made of, whether he's some kind of bionic man or something," Sting mused. "That first time, Vader really rocked him with the power bomb. I mean, that was a full-force shot, but Hulk got up. If you're asking how he did it, I couldn't tell you."

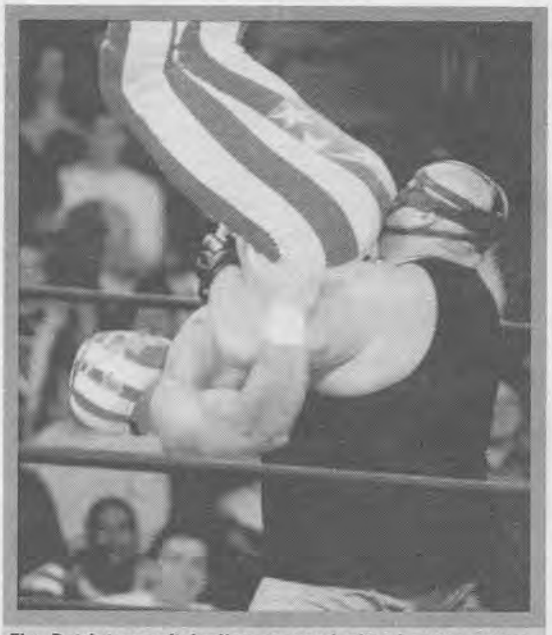
Sting has been on the receiving end of several power bombs. He can't explain why his tag team partner and friend Hulk Hogan is immune to the immense pain.

Fortunately, we have some answers. The logical answer is that Vader power-bombed Hogan onto a mat, as opposed to the arena floor. Instead of the impact crippling Hogan and jarring his bones, it merely stunned him for a moment until he finally regained his senses.

"Sure," Sting said. "But how do you explain that he usually power-bombs opponents on the mat, and they *still* don't get up?"

The answer might be found in Hogan's incredible shoulder and neck muscles, bulging patches of solid flesh that allow no pain to penetrate them. The answer might also be found thousands of miles away, in Japan.

In 1993, while on a brief tour of the Orient, Hogan met with several muscle and nerve therapists whose practices are considered quite unusual in this part of the world. According to one of our sources in Japan, Dr. Shinzaki Hu, these specialists combine a form of acupuncture with aquatherapy and electric shocks to various nerves.



The Patriot wasn't feeling so good after he was power-bombed at SuperBrawl. If he wants to take on Vader in the future, maybe he should visit Hogan's muscle therapist .

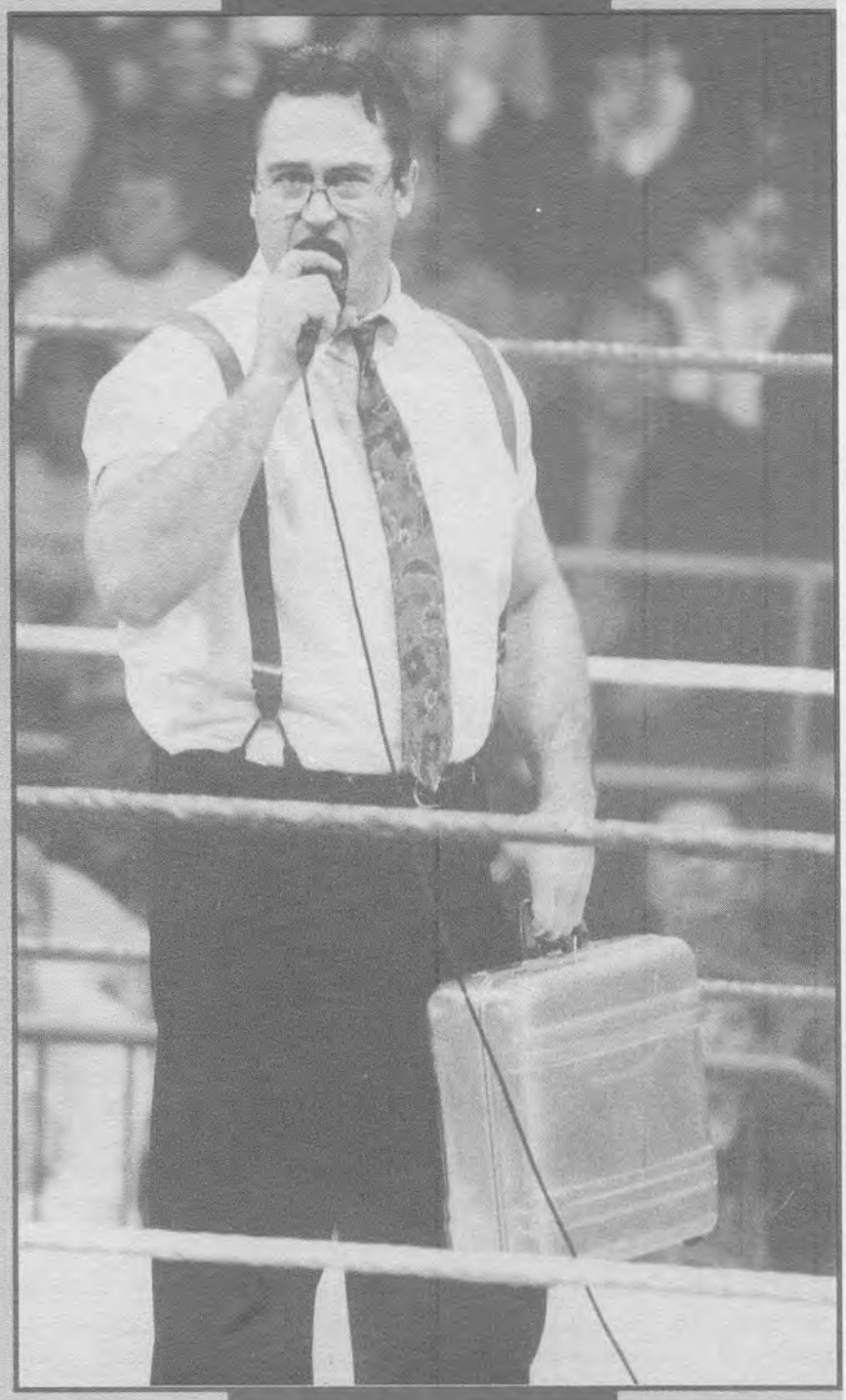
"The idea is to increase the pain threshold by building up the muscles and killing several nerve endings," said Dr. Hu, who uses the technique on some of his patients. "What we do would be frowned upon in your United States, but it's gaining acceptance here."

Hogan reportedly underwent a mild form of this treatment, but was reluctant to go further, for fear of killing too many nerve endings. The "Hulkster" didn't want to be anybody's laboratory rat.

But a few hours well-spent in a Japanese doctor's office might have saved him his neck, his pride, and, quite possibly, his life.

It might cost Vader any real chance of winning a fourth WCW World title. ■

WE HAVE IT! (WE THINK!)



IRWIN R. SCHYSTER'S TAX RETURN!

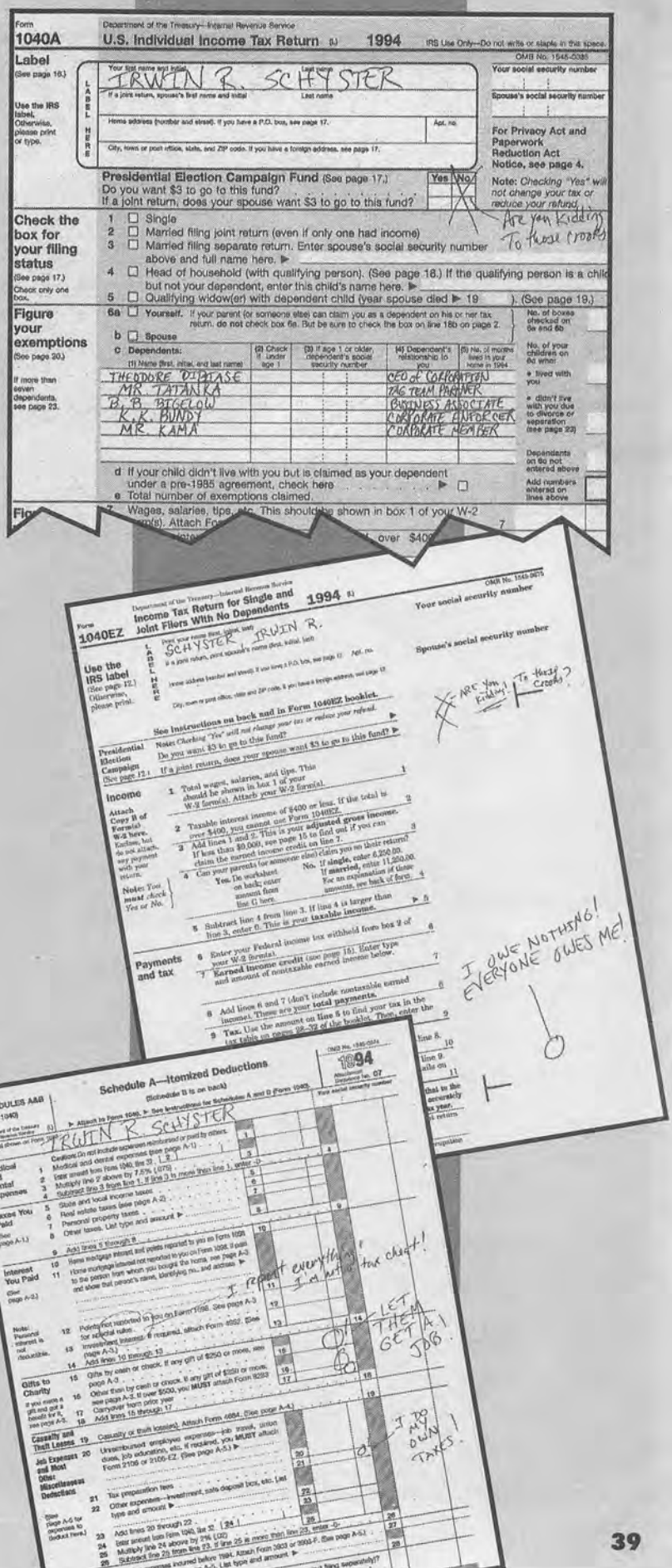
IT WAS A rainy night in February. After four hours and more than 20 matches, a long WWF TV taping ended. A reporter from SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING cautiously approached an irate Irwin R. Schyster with an idea.

"Mr. Schyster, do you mind if I ask you a strange question?" the reporter said. Schyster just glared at him through his bifocals.

"Seeing how you're always calling people tax cheats and everything, we at SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING have a proposal for you: We'd like to take a look at your tax return for 1994. We're sure that *you* would never cheat on your taxes, but we think the fans would like to see your tax return anyway ... just for fun. We'll even print it in the magazine, if that's okay with you. What do you say?"

"Get the hell out of here!" Schyster replied. "That's none of your damn business. I never heard such a ridiculous idea! Get out!" By this time, a dozen or so wrestlers had gathered around, wondering what the commotion

If you thought your accountant came up with some "creative" deductions, you haven't seen anything until you've seen the tax return of the man known as IRS!


Form 1040A — Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service — U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 1994 — IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space. OMB No. 1545-0085

Label (See page 16.) — Your first name and initial: IRWIN R. — Last name: SCHYSTER — If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial — Last name — Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see page 17. — Apt. no. — City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, see page 17. — Your social security number — Spouse's social security number

Use the IRS label. Otherwise, please print or type.

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 4.

Presidential Election Campaign Fund (See page 17.) — Do you want $3 to go to this fund? — If a joint return, does your spouse want $3 to go to this fund? — Yes / No

Note: Checking "Yes" will not change your tax or reduce your refund.

Are you kidding? To those crooks!

Check the box for your filing status (See page 17.) Check only one box.
1 ☐ Single
2 ☐ Married filing joint return (even if only one had income)
3 ☐ Married filing separate return. Enter spouse's social security number above and full name here. ▶
4 ☐ Head of household (with qualifying person). (See page 18.) If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here. ▶
5 ☐ Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child (year spouse died ▶ 19). (See page 19.)

Figure your exemptions (See page 20.) If more than seven dependents, see page 23.
6a ☐ Yourself. If your parent (or someone else) can claim you as a dependent on his or her tax return, do not check box 6a. But be sure to check the box on line 16b on page 2.
b ☐ Spouse
c Dependents:

(1) Name (first, initial, and last name)	(2) Check if under age 1	(3) If age 1 or older, dependent's social security number	(4) Dependent's relationship to you	(5) No. of months lived in your home in 1994
THEODORE DIPIASE			CEO of CORPORATION	
MR. TATANKA			TAG TEAM PARTNER	
B. B. BIGELOW			BUSINESS ASSOCIATE	
K. K. BUNDY			CORPORATE ANFORCER	
MR. KAMA			CORPORATE MEMBER	

No. of boxes checked on 6a and 6b
No. of your children on 6c who:
• lived with you
• didn't live with you due to divorce or separation (see page 23)
Dependents on 6c not entered above
Add numbers entered on lines above

d If your child didn't live with you but is claimed as your dependent under a pre-1985 agreement, check here ▶ ☐
e Total number of exemptions claimed.

Figure your income
7 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. This should be shown in box 1 of your W-2 form(s). Attach Form(s) W-2. ... over $400 — 7

Form 1040EZ — Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service — Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers With No Dependents 1994 — OMB No. 1545-0675

Your social security number — Spouse's social security number

Use the IRS label (See page 12.) Otherwise, please print. — Print your name (first, initial, last): SCHYSTER IRWIN R. — If a joint return, print spouse's name (first, initial, last) — Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see page 12. — Apt. no. — City, town or post office, state and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, see page 12.

See instructions on back and in Form 1040EZ booklet.

Presidential Election Campaign (See page 12.) — Note: Checking "Yes" will not change your tax or reduce your refund. — Do you want $3 to go to this fund? — If a joint return, does your spouse want $3 to go to this fund? ▶

Are you kidding? To those crooks?

Income — Attach Copy B of Form(s) W-2 here. Enclose, but do not attach, any payment with your return.
1 Total wages, salaries, and tips. This should be shown in box 1 of your W-2 form(s). Attach your W-2 form(s). — 1
2 Taxable interest income of $400 or less. If the total is over $400, you cannot use Form 1040EZ. — 2
3 Add lines 1 and 2. This is your adjusted gross income. — 3
If less than $9,000, see page 15 to find out if you can claim the earned income credit on line 7.
4 Can your parents (or someone else) claim you on their return? Yes. Do worksheet on back; enter amount from line G here. No. If single, enter 6,250.00. If married, enter 11,250.00. For an explanation of these amounts, see back of form. — 4
Note: You must check Yes or No.
5 Subtract line 4 from line 3. If line 4 is larger than line 3, enter 0. This is your taxable income. ▶ — 5

Payments and tax
6 Enter your Federal income tax withheld from box 2 of your W-2 form(s). — 6
7 Earned income credit (see page 16). Enter type and amount of nontaxable earned income below. — 7
8 Add lines 6 and 7 (don't include nontaxable earned income). These are your total payments. — 8
9 Tax. Use the amount on line 5 to find your tax in the tax table on pages 28–32 of the booklet. Then, enter the — 9

I owe nothing! Everyone owes me!

SCHEDULES A&B (Form 1040) — Department of the Treasury — Internal Revenue Service — Schedule A—Itemized Deductions (Schedule B is on back) — ▶ Attach to Form 1040. ▶ See instructions for Schedules A and B (Form 1040). — 1994 — Attachment Sequence No. 07 — Your social security number

IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Medical and Dental Expenses
1 Caution: Do not include expenses reimbursed or paid by others. Medical and dental expenses (see page A-1) — 1
2 Enter amount from Form 1040, line 32 . | 2 | — 3
3 Multiply line 2 above by 7.5% (.075) — 4
4 Subtract line 3 from line 1. If line 3 is more than line 1, enter -0- — 5

Taxes You Paid (See page A-1.)
5 State and local income taxes — 6
6 Real estate taxes (see page A-2) — 7
7 Personal property taxes — 8
8 Other taxes. List type and amount ▶ — 9

Interest You Paid (See page A-2.)
9 Add lines 5 through 8 — 10
10 Home mortgage interest and points reported to you on Form 1098 — 11
11 Home mortgage interest not reported to you on Form 1098. If paid to the person from whom you bought the home, see page A-3 and show that person's name, identifying no., and address ▶ — 12
12 Points not reported to you on Form 1098. See page A-3 for special rules — 13
13 Investment interest. If required, attach Form 4952. (See page A-3.) — 14
14 Add lines 10 through 13 — 15

Note: Personal interest is not deductible.

Gifts to Charity
15 Gifts by cash or check. If any gift of $250 or more, see page A-3 — 16
16 Other than by cash or check. If any gift of $250 or more, see page A-3. If over $500, you MUST attach Form 8283 — 17
17 Carryover from prior year — 18
18 Add lines 15 through 17 — 19

If you made a gift and got a benefit for it, see page A-3.

Casualty and Theft Losses
19 Casualty or theft loss(s). Attach Form 4684. (See page A-4.) — 20

Job Expenses and Most Other Miscellaneous Deductions
20 Unreimbursed employee expenses—job travel, union dues, job education, etc. If required, you MUST attach Form 2106 or 2106-EZ. (See page A-5.) ▶ — 21
21 Tax preparation fees — 22
22 Other expenses—investment, safe deposit box, etc. List type and amount ▶ — 23
23 Add lines 20 through 22 — 24
24 Enter amount from Form 1040, line 32 — 25
25 Multiply line 24 above by 2% (.02) — 26
26 Subtract line 25 from line 23. If line 25 is more than line 23, enter -0- — 27
27 Other expenses to deduct (see page A-5. List type and amount ▶ — 28
28 Total itemized deductions. Add the amounts in the far right column for lines 4 through 27 and enter here ▶ — 29
29 If married filing separately and your spouse itemizes deductions, check here ▶ ☐

Other Miscellaneous Deductions

I report everything! I'm not a tax cheat!

LET THEM GET A JOB.

I DO MY OWN TAXES!

was. Schyster just stormed off and headed for the showers.

We took that as a no and decided it was probably a ridiculous idea anyway.

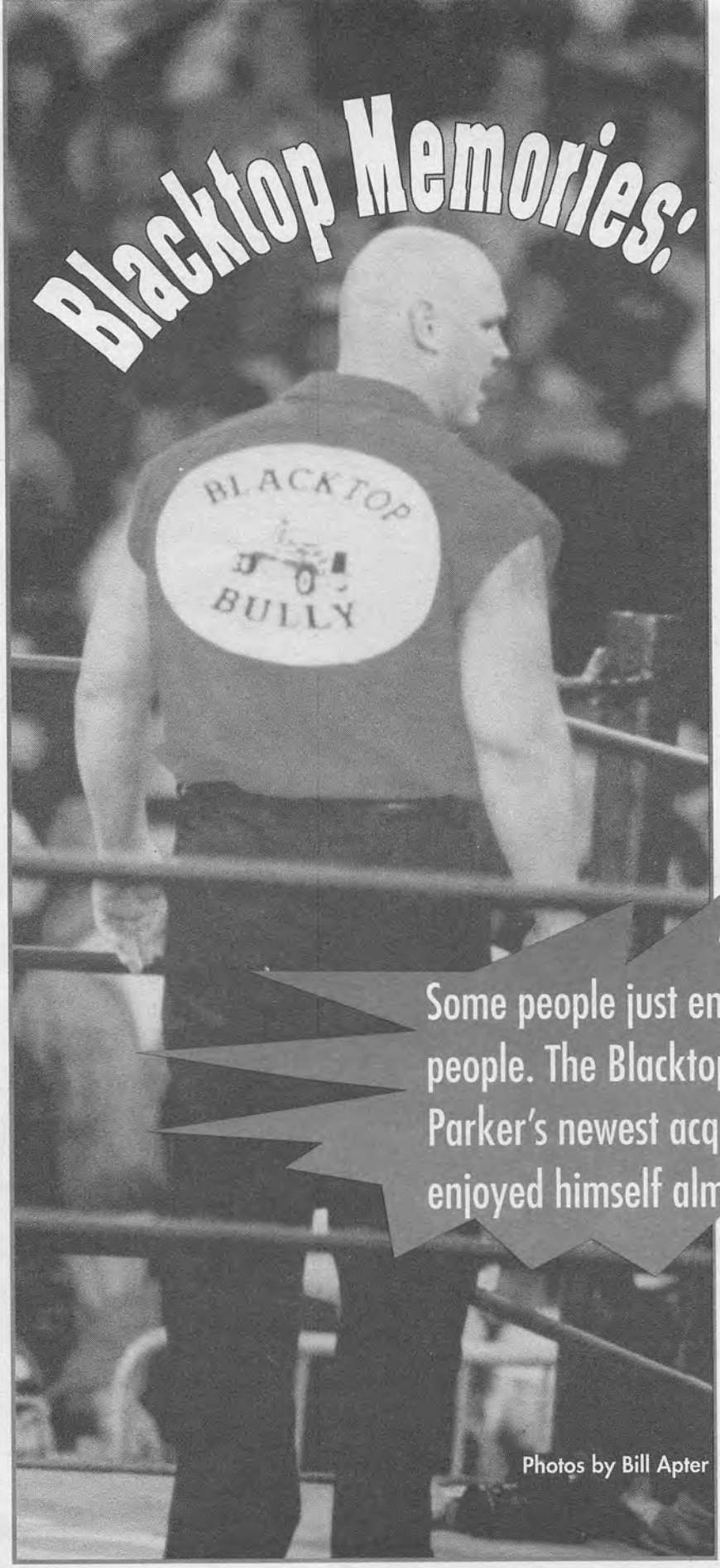
But much to our surprise, a few months later, a package arrived at our offices. There was no return address; the postmark said Syracuse, New York. Inside the manila envelope was several tax forms. What was strange was that none of them was filled in completely. Only a few lines were filled in on each, but we found what was filled in to be very interesting.

Ten minutes later, Senior Editor Bill Apter placed a call to Schyster.

"Thanks for sending those tax forms," he said when IRS picked up the phone.

"I don't know what you're talking about," Schyster responded angrily. "Leave me alone. I'm in the middle of an important business meeting!" He hung up.

Was it Schyster who sent those forms? Perhaps we'll never know for sure. We'll leave it up to you to decide. ■



Blacktop Memories:

"I'VE BEEN A BULLY SINCE I'VE BEEN OLD ENOUGH TO PUNCH"

Some people just enjoy hurting other people. The Blacktop Bully, Col. Robert Parker's newest acquisition in WCW, has enjoyed himself almost his entire life

Photos by Bill Apter

By The Blacktop Bully

THE ONE THING I remember most about school was when I was in the second grade back there in Iowa. We was sitting in class, all of us, when across the room some punk threw a Milk Dud at my head and hit me right in the ear. Before I knew it, I was on top of the little sucker and punching

him in the face. It was lights out! Not bad for an eight-year-old, huh?

That was the first time I ever punched somebody, in the face or wherever, and I couldn't believe I could do that to another person with my bare hands. It felt good—real good—and from that day on, whenever I've had the opportunity to punch another human being, I've seized that opportunity.

I didn't get much further than that second-grade class. I always found myself in the principal's office or at detention. That didn't bother me at all. Being in school was fine, because it gave me more people to push around, and if I had to push people around in detention, so be it. There was one year I remember, I was in fourth grade, when by December, none of the other kids ever brought lunch money to school, because they knew if they did, I'd beat it out of 'em. And nobody ever brought peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches, because that was my favorite, and if I saw you with it, I'd take it from you.

Now that I think about it, I've been a bully since I've been old enough to punch. The first time my mother slapped me—I was seven at the time—I slapped her right back. My father found out about it and gave me quite a lickin', but I didn't mind, 'cause I knew in a few years, I'd be fighting back.

School might have been fun, but it was never for me. Classes, I mean. The girls, sure, that was always good, and I liked gym class, especially when we wrestled. Then I'd get a chance to kick the other kids in the ribs or maybe drop them on their heads.

Then this one day, they had these tests that were supposed to help us figure out what we wanted to be when we grew up. Mine came up truck driver, professional wrestler, and gang leader. Now, to me, that's pretty good, because I knew what I wanted to be, and I went for it.

Driving a truck was a good living. I got to use my strength, and I'd spend a lot of time on the road thinking, picking up hitchhikers, and running yuppies in little Miatas off the road. I had a reputation up and down the Midwest in every bar in the country. When I walked into a roadhouse or something like that, the whole place would go quiet, and I'd have about 20 people standing in line waitin' to buy me drinks. I always had one rule: If you buy me a drink, I won't kick your butt. Otherwise, don't look at me funny.

Now I've got an admission to make: You know all those times back in the beginning where I'd show up at the televised wrestling matches and heckle all the other wrestlers? Well, I was looking for a fight, and I didn't care who it was with. I figured the best way to get a name was to make everybody notice me, and you know them wrestlers didn't want nothin' to do with me.

But Col. Parker noticed. The best day of my life was when he showed up at that prison cell and bailed me out. Was worth every penny of that $75,000 he had to pay; that's what he tells me. That's when I knew it was time to stop driving truck and start doing something else.

Now I get to punch people and make money for it. Life couldn't be better. ■

The Blacktop Bully suplexes Dustin Rhodes. After a lifetime of beating people up just because he likes to do it so much, Bully is finally getting paid for his thuggery.

No Bones

They bark, growl, and bite, but The Moondogs have their sweet side, too. They spend a lot of their free time visiting young children in hospitals, and they're having a howling good time doing it!

The Moondogs Really Are Nice Guys!

By Andy Rodriguez

THE BOY WAS no older than five. The man approaching him sported a messy head of hair, a scraggly beard, and torn, dirty jeans. He weighed more than 300 pounds. He was brandishing a smelly, old bone. But the boy wasn't afraid. In fact, he was downright happy.

"Spot! Spot!" he yelled excitedly. "Come over here! Come by me!"

Strange? No, nothing strange about it. Lately, The Moondogs have received the same reaction from a lot of other children. What was once a surprise has become the norm.

"A year ago," said the boy's mother, "he would have cried if one of The Moondogs came anywhere near him. Now he can't wait to see them."

In many respects, The Moondogs haven't changed. They're still two of the meanest wrestlers in the world. They still contend for the USWA tag team title, which they have won several times. And they still howl at the moon.

Recently, though, Spot and Rex have begun to show a different side of themselves—a good side. They used to spend their days lounging around their canine quarters; now they regularly devote their free time to charity. Among their kindnesses: visiting sick children in Louisville area hospitals.

"It's always great when the pro wrestlers come around to chat with the kids," one doctor said. "It's especially gratifying to see people like The Moondogs here. It proves they have a heart, too."

"The 'Dogs really enjoy it," offered USWA wrestler Scott Studd. "Folks have always had this bad view of them. Their managers always told them they had to hate, hate, hate. Now they're being themselves."

The goodwill The Moondogs have earned has carried over into the ring. Fans who once despised them now heartily cheer them on. That support undeniably has affected the way they wrestle.

"Sure, they still get nasty," Studd said, "but they aren't as cutthroat

About It

Photos by Jerry Wilson

The Moondogs don't look like the kind of men who could make sick children happy by spreading good cheer. But they like visiting sick kids almost as much as they like bashing skulls in wrestling rings.

as they used to be. They're more determined to do the right thing, even if it costs them a match. They finally have the people in their corner, and they aren't about to let them down!"

Naturally, their detractors claim the "new" Moondogs are just the "same old" Moondogs with a new strategy.

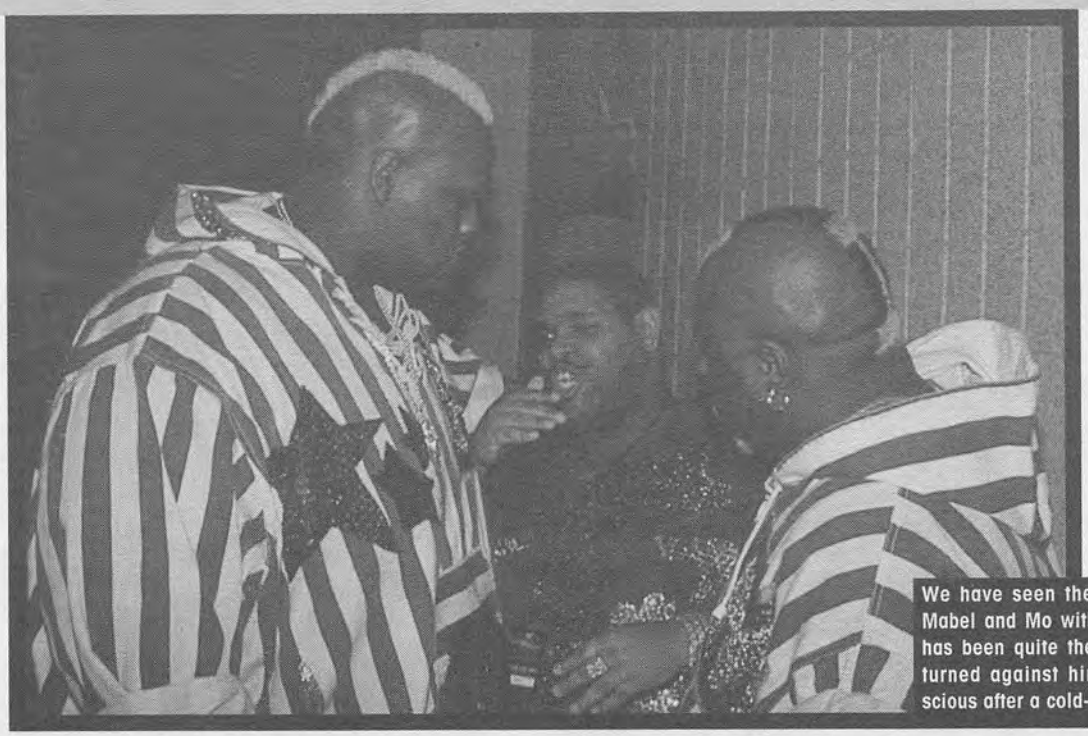
"I don't buy their act for a second!" spat Tommy Rich. "They're setting everybody up for a double-cross! Cuddle the kids today, slap them tomorrow! Spot and Rex are two old dogs you can never teach a new trick!"

Rich may have a point, but another parent suggests we listen to the real experts: the children.

"You can't fool kids," he said. "They can spot a phony a mile away. The way they react to The Moondogs proves to me those guys are for real. I think we should all be pleased, not suspicious."

So let them scrounge around in garbage cans for bones. As long as The Moondogs are making people happy, they're okay! ■

Men On A New Mission: MABEL & MO'S PHAT FURY



We have seen the last of Oscar helping Mabel and Mo with match strategy. Oscar has been quite the grouch since his men turned against him and left him unconscious after a cold-blooded attack.

The WWF's favorite friendly, rappin' wrestlers aren't so friendly anymore. Mo and Mabel dumped their manager, and they don't care what anyone thinks of them!

By Chris Bernucca

THE CRITICS OF Men on a Mission have often described them as nothing more than a glorified rap group. The trio always denied that, but they have to admit that they resemble a rap group in one way: A clash of egos has broken them up.

It started with a match against WWF World tag team champions The Smokin' Gunns. The bout ended when Billy Gunn pinned Mo, which meant that Men on a Mission were denied the title ... again. Perhaps no longer able to contain their frustration, Mabel and Mo attacked the Gunns following the bout.

Oscar, their manager, wasn't too happy about the behavior his men displayed. Since entering the WWF last year, Men on a Mission have had varying levels of success and failure, but it has always been on the right side of the rules and respectful of the fans, which has made Mabel and Mo very popular.

"That wasn't them," Oscar said. "I don't what got into them, but that certainly wasn't them."

Later on the card, the trio again came to the ring.

MAKES OSCAR A GROUCH!

Oscar thought of apologizing for the actions of Mabel and Mo, but decided to teach them a lesson instead. Taking the arena microphone in front of a packed house, he ordered the fun-loving fat men to personally apologize to the fans of the WWF.

The fans never got their apology. Instead, Oscar took a beating at the hands of Mabel and Mo, who turned on their manager with a vengeance. Oscar was rendered unconscious after Mabel dropped all of his 503 pounds—in the form of a legdrop—on him. These are new Men on a New Mission, and it appears that nothing will stop them until they reach their goal of the tag team title.

"Hell, yes, it caught me by surprise," said one fan favorite who requested anonymity. "These guys used to do nothing but laugh and joke around in and out of the ring. Weren't you surprised?"

Since Bob Backlund's bizarre character transformation, it has been hard to be surprised by anything. But no one expected Mabel and Mo to become rulebreakers, least of all Oscar.

"I've had it with them," he said. "They say they want to be champions? Right now, they look like a couple of chumps!"

What you will see from Men on a Mission is less rapping and more double-teaming and rulebreaking. Mo and Mabel don't care about the fans anymore; they will stop at nothing to win the WWF World tag team title.

Oscar certainly has a right to be bitter about the breakup, but his evaluation is a bit tainted. Under his direction, Men on a Mission were a couple of easygoing party animals who won the WWF World tag team title last year, but were unable to hold it for more than a couple of days.

Mabel and Mo haven't been close to the belts since, and friends have revealed that the duo had discussed doing something drastic in order to shake things up months ago. They were planning a break from Oscar, and when he tried to embarrass them, they showed how serious they were about their transformation.

"That's news to me," Oscar said. "They never said, never showed anything to make me believe they were going to turn against me. And why would they do that? They got their title shot, and they were probably going to get another one somewhere down the line."

Now Mabel and Mo are rulebreakers. Their size and strength made them tough to beat when they adhered to the rules. With no regard for fair play, Men on a Mission will now trample opponents the same way they did their manager. The duo could be unstoppable. ■

Move Over, Lawler And Honky Tonk ...

He weighs more than 350 pounds, manages Greg Valentine, and dresses like you-know-who. This Elvis impersonator, however, insists he's not like the others

By Andy Rodriguez

PEANUT BUTTER AND banana sandwiches weren't on the menu, but The King had a craving he had to satisfy.

"And not that chunky peanut butter!" The King yelled back to the waitress, "Nuts get caught in my teeth! Man, I hate that!

"Now," he said, turning back to the reporter. "Where were we? Yeah, like I was saying, the pro wrestling business is the place for me! I promise you have never seen anybody quite like The King!"

Actually, we've seen a lot of people—too many—like The King. There are Elvis Presley impersonators everywhere you look. If you believe certain folks, Elvis himself is everywhere you look.

In wrestling, of course, there is The Honky Tonk Man. There is also Jerry Lawler, who is not an Elvis wannabe but does claim to be the most famous resident of Memphis, Tennessee, ever. He also calls himself "The King."

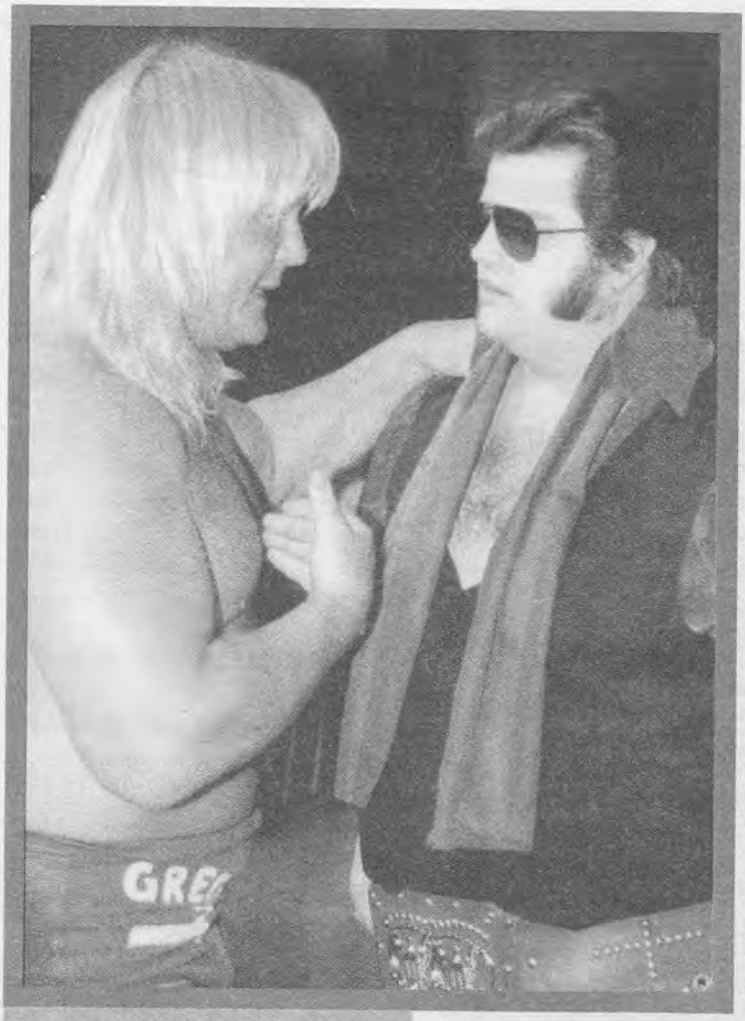
Still, this latest "King" claims he's like no other.

"Honky and Lawler had their glory!" he crowed, "but they've made a lot of mistakes, and I've learned from them. Maybe folks aren't too familiar with me now, but they will be soon!"

Fans and wrestlers in International Championship Wrestling are already familiar with this new claimant to the throne. At a card in Pennsylvania, The King introduced himself as the new manager of Greg "The Hammer" Valentine.

HERE COMES THE KING!

Photos by Timothy A. Walker



If you thought Jerry Lawler and The Honky Tonk Man were loud and obnoxious, well, as they say, you ain't seen nothin' yet. The King has arrived, and with Greg Valentine in his charge, plans to make his mark as a manager.

It happened this way: Valentine and Tony Atlas were wrestling Johnny Gunn and Jim Powers when another manager, Darren Wise, came to the ring and gave money to Valentine to get him to bail out on Atlas. "The Hammer" left the ring, leaving his partner open for a beating and an embarrassing loss. Later, Wise revealed he was merely a middleman for The King.

"I figured I'd let Wise do the dirty work," The King explained. "But I took care of Wise very handsomely, and now I have one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport under my wing. It's just the start of my empire!"

In International Championship Wrestling, they're wondering why this guy decide to start his empire there. Others are asking why he got involved in wrestling at all. "I'm not that mysterious," The King coyly insisted. "Really. For the past 10 years, I've been playing clubs all over the country with an Elvis act. I'm good ... damned good. Heck, I do Elvis better than Elvis did!

"I always had this dream to get into wrestling and manage," he continued. "A couple of months ago, I decided to go for it. Decided it was time to put my plans in action. Made a few connections, and here I am."

Valentine, The King's first wrestler, said that although they have only been a team for a few months, his manager has impressed him tremendously.

"I don't give a damn what he looks like or who he sings like!" said Valentine, who, ironically, dressed like Elvis himself at WrestleMania VI and teamed with The Honky Tonk Man. "I'm convinced this man knows his stuff!"

"To land a wrestler like Valentine, the guy must know what he's doing," Scott Putski conceded. "It's hard to take him seriously, but I think we have to."

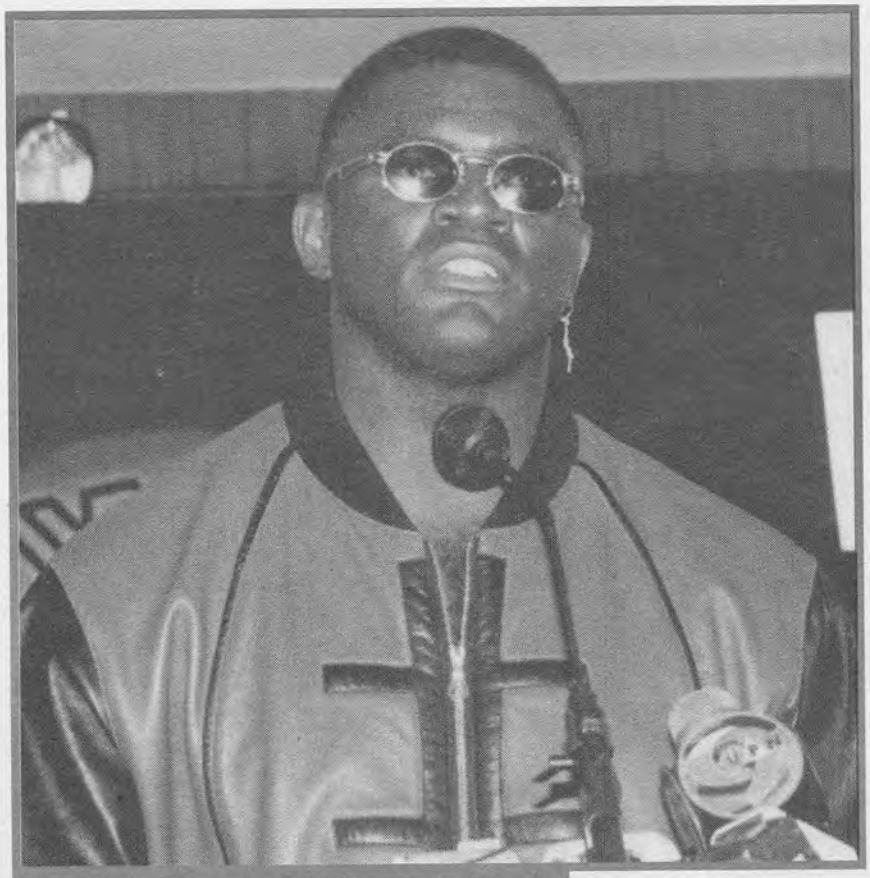
The waitress arrived with The King's sandwich. He was *still* not happy.

"I said double-peanut butter!" he screamed. "And more banana! Is this any way to treat a king?"

Maybe not, but a lot of wrestlers—and waitresses—will have to learn the right way. ■

Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will present a transcript of a discussion among several editors. It's your chance to listen in as some of wrestling's most respected journalists speak their minds!

EDITOR'S Roundtable



Getting Lawrence Taylor to wrestle Bam Bam Bigelow was a shrewd move by the WWF, says Eddie Ellner. He thinks it was a clever way for Vince McMahon and company to cover up the fact that they have such weak talent.

IN THIS ISSUE, Associate Publisher Craig Peters, Associate Editor Brandi Mankiewicz, and Senior Writers Dave Rosenbaum and Eddie Ellner sit down to discuss the Lawrence Taylor-Bam Bam Bigelow situation, the North Korea supercard, and the possibility of a full-time comeback by Ric Flair.

EDDIE ELLNER: Well, gentlemen and lady, when we last got together, I believe I said something about the sorry state of affairs in the WWF. May I be the first to suggest that the Lawrence Taylor-Bam Bam Bigelow fiasco at WrestleMania XI was nothing more than the WWF's pitiful attempt to cover up its shallow talent pool? I think it goes without saying that if the WWF still had Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, The Road Warriors, and the Steiners, along with Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart, it never would have sunk half a million bucks into L.T.

BRANDI MANKIEWICZ: Aren't you Mr. Insightful today, Eddie. Of course that's why the WWF signed L.T. vs. Bam Bam. Why else would any promoter sink that kind of money into anything? They're not running a charity outfit over there. They knew there's no way you'd get half a million people at $29.95 a pop for Diesel vs.

Shawn Michaels, as appealing as that match might be. If you ask me, the WWF showed a lot of foresight. They should be commended.

ELLNER: Commended? Are you kidding me, Brandi? Commended for what, once again turning the sport into a three-ring circus? My guess is that after a few hours, even those who paid 30 bucks for the show switched to *WCW Main Event*. At least there you have the chance of seeing Flair and Vader.

CRAIG PETERS: Speaking of which, Eddie, I seem to remember you saying something last month about Hogan shaking in his shoes and sweating bullets over the thought of having to wrestle Vader. Care to rethink that one?

ELLNER: Why, because of one little incident where Hogan luckily recovers from a power bomb and a few inconclusive matches? You'd best believe, Craig, that Hogan wants no part of Vader and would be very happy if Bockwinkel just went and called the whole feud off.

PETERS: I don't think so. At this point, Hogan won't be happy until he destroys Vader, just like he destroyed Flair, Beefcake, and just about every other wrestler he's ever faced.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Flair doesn't look too destroyed to me. He looks like he's very healthy in retirement.

MANKIEWICZ: Semi-retirement, Dave. Remember, he's wrestling Inoki at that card in North Korea. And I hear he might wrestle in Japan in May, too.

ELLNER: Should be better than Ali-Inoki, don't you think?

ROSENBAUM: Yeah, but I'm not sure how much better. Inoki's really getting old and worn, and as for Flair, well, when he lost to Hogan last summer, I knew he was getting worn down. But who knows? Maybe the rest did him some good.

ELLNER: Anybody care to take bets on this proposition: If Flair beats Inoki, he'll come back after Hogan ...

ROSENBAUM: Or Vader.

PETERS: Definitely Vader. If Vader beats Hogan, I think it's a good bet we'll see Flair back in the ring full-time by the end of the summer. Flair knows he can beat Vader.

Ric Flair will be back as a full-time wrestler. That's the opinion of most of the members of our panel. But will he be challenging Hulk Hogan ... or Big Van Vader?

ELLNER: Flair knows he can beat Hogan, too.

MANKIEWICZ: When, three years ago? Ancient history, Eddie.

ELLNER: You know, Brandi, sometimes I have a hard time believing you're a blood relation of Matt Brock.

MANKIEWICZ: It's distant, Eddie, and thanks for the compliment.

ELLNER: It wasn't meant as a compliment, Brandi, and thanks for the explanation. Let's look at the facts: Flair returns to WCW in 1993 and takes on Vader. They meet in a match before which Flair agreed to retired had he lost, so Flair turns up the volume and wins. They meet again. Flair wins again. They have a grueling feud. Hogan enters the federation at just the right time, catches a tired Flair, fools him into a retirement match, and beats him. Now he's rested and ready again, and it doesn't matter if it's Vader or Hogan. My prediction, and you heard it here first, is that Flair will be WCW World champion again in 1995.

PETERS: And you're telling me Bockwinkel's just going to let him come back, just like that, forget the "loser-must-retire" match, and make himself look like an idiot?

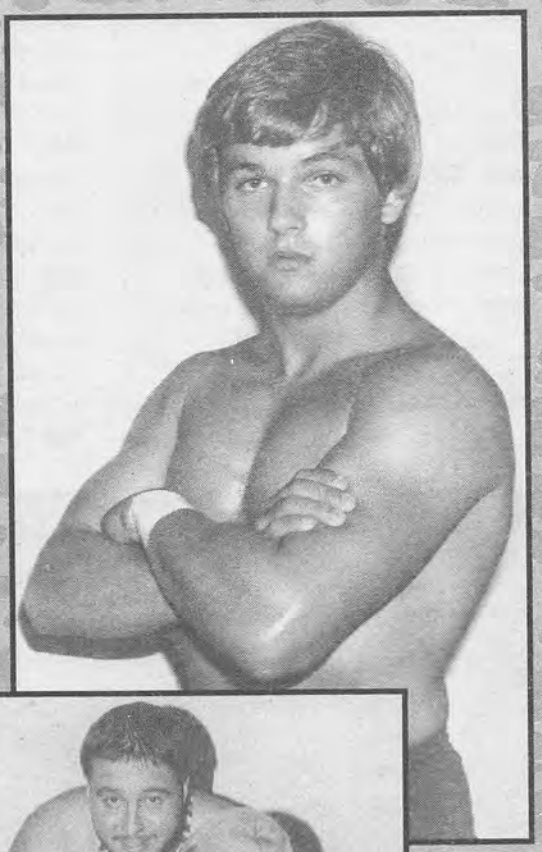
ELLNER: Bockwinkel already looks like an idiot, Craig.

ROSENBAUM: That's true, but I think what Craig is getting at is that Flair just can't return, just like that, and I'm not sure he wants to. Besides, it goes back to what we were talking about at the beginning. WCW doesn't need Flair. It doesn't need Flair vs. Vader. Right now, all it seems to need is Hogan vs. anybody, just like that was all the WWF needed for so many years. I think WCW is past the point where it wants to present quality wrestling. It did that, and it didn't work. Now it just wants to make money.

ELLNER: Nothing wrong with that, if you run a circus. ■

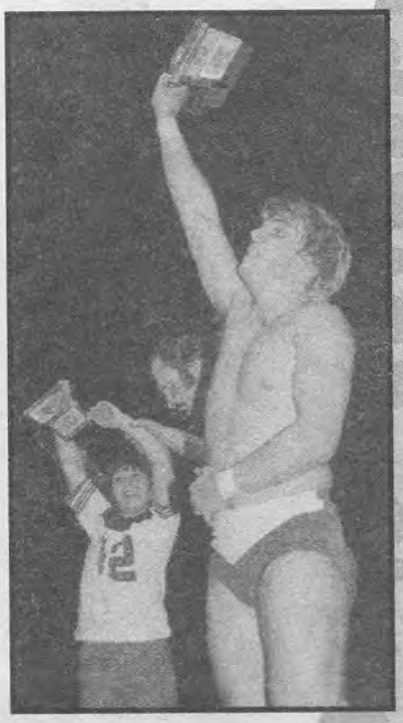
Eddie Gilbert's Photo Album

Eddie Gilbert died of a massive heart attack on February 18. The editors of SPORT REVIEW WRESTLING decided the best way to pay tribute to him would be to look back at his career in this special "Photo Album" section.



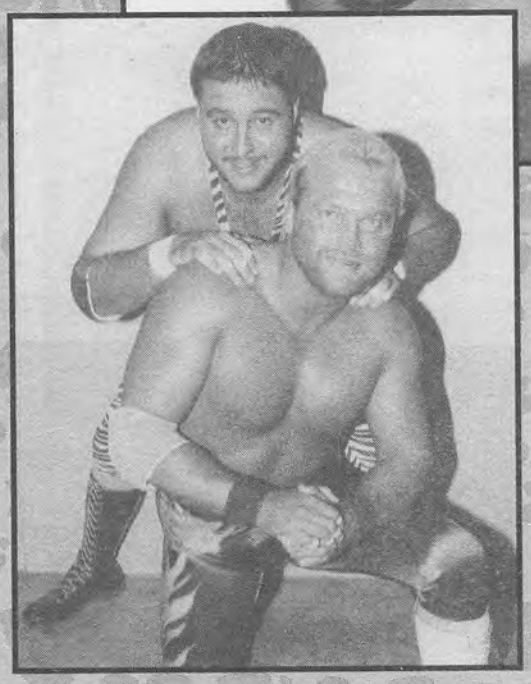
If Eddie Gilbert looks innocent in this photo (taken in the late-1970s), it's probably because he was. He began his career as a fan favorite who always did his best to play by the rules.

1



Like father, like son. Tommy Gilbert taught his oldest son well, and they won many tag team titles together before Tommy retired. That's a young Doug Gilbert joining in on this celebration.

2



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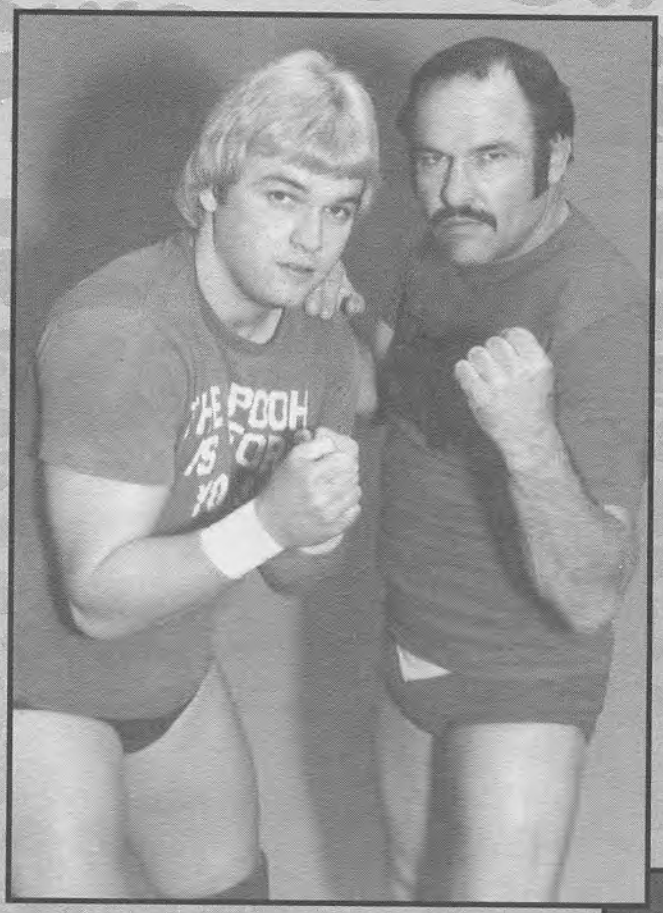
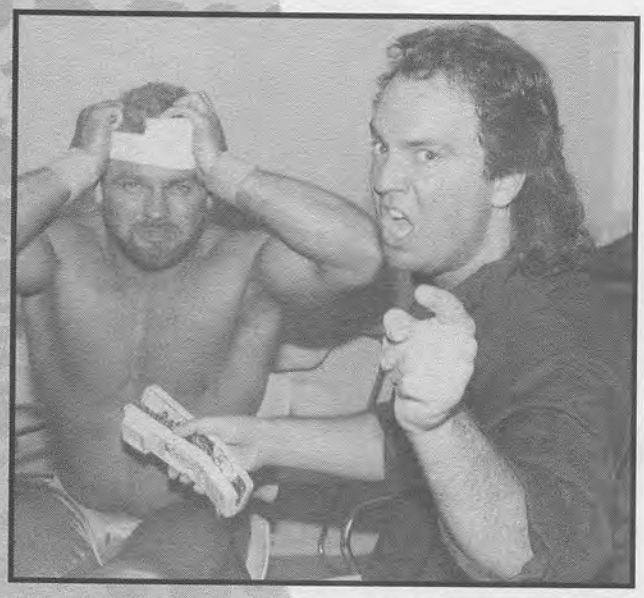
Friends ... rivals ... bitter enemies, but most of all brothers. That's what Doug and Eddie Gilbert were. They feuded off and on during the last few years of Eddie's life. Doug, however, took his brother's death very hard.



3 If scientific wrestling doesn't work, don't be afraid to use your fists. That's what Tommy always emphasized to Eddie. Eddie listened, too; he became one of the best and most fearless brawlers in the sport.



4 Eddie was also very close to manager Paul E. Dangerously. Gilbert was part of The Dangerous Alliance in ECW, though he often tried to convince to name the rulebreaking group after him.

5 Gilbert's business relationship with Missy Hyatt resulted in marriage in the mid-'80s. Sadly, neither the business relationship nor the marriage lasted very long.

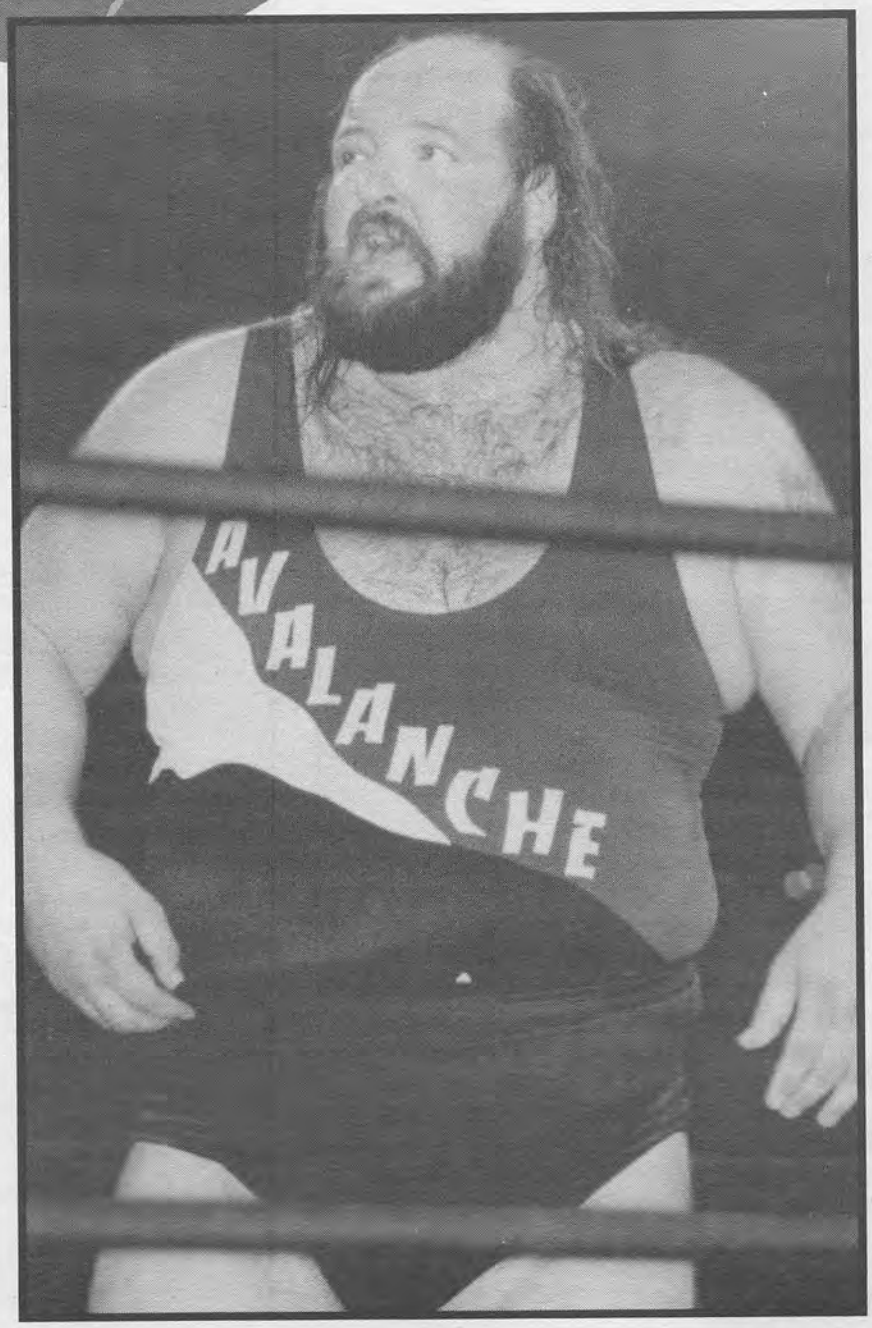
6 Away from the ring, Eddie was always very good to his family. Here he poses with his mother, Peggy, and his niece Jennifer Woods before Wrestle War '89 in Nashville, Tennessee.

SPORTS REVIEW SUPERSTATS

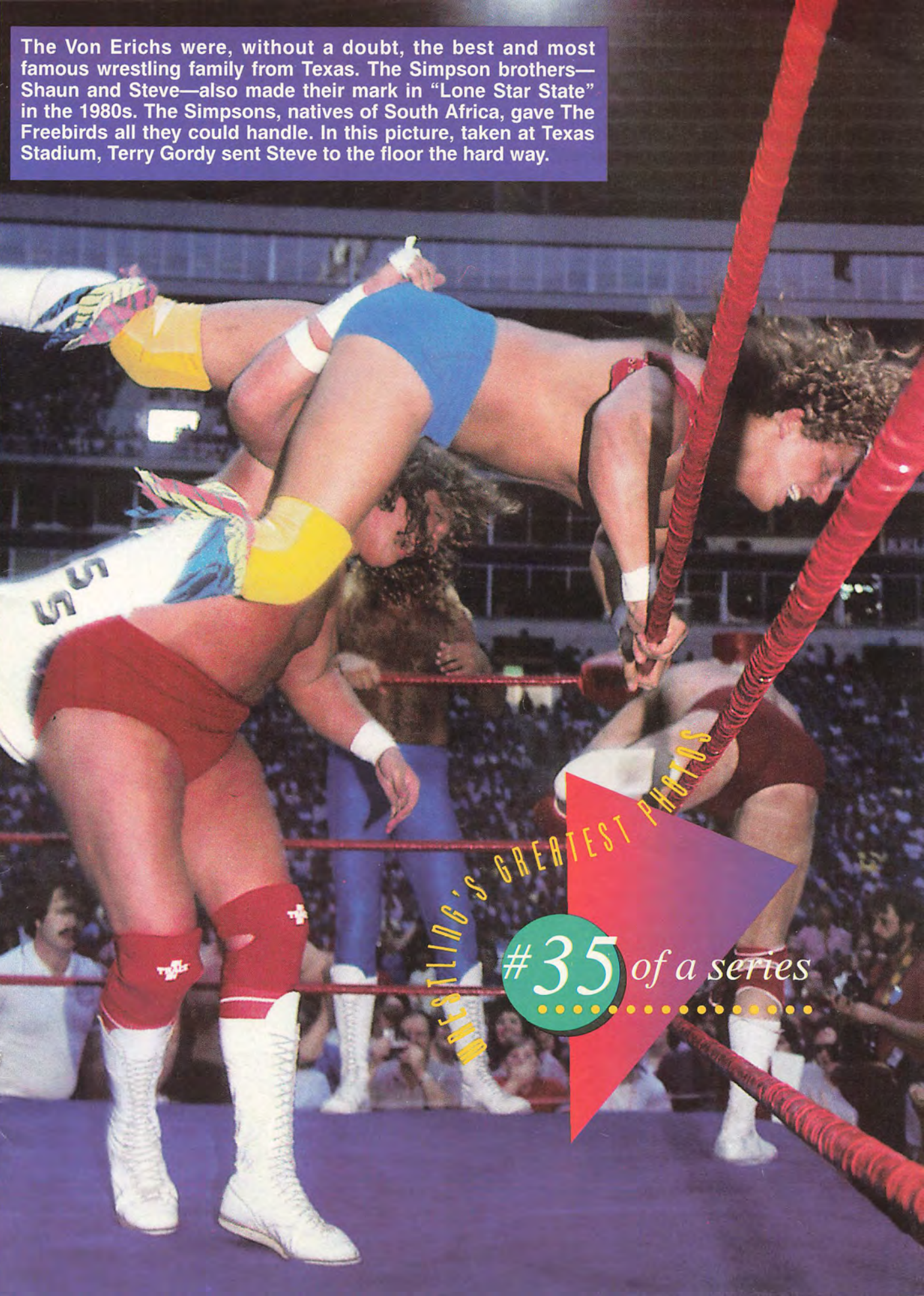
Ever wonder what a wrestler's personal preferences are? His favorite comedian, hobby, or color? Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will provide you with inside information about your favorite mat stars!

AVALANCHE

HEIGHT: 6'4"
WEIGHT: 502
HOMETOWN: Montreal, Quebec
YEARS PRO: 7
FAVORITE MANEUVER: Sit-down splash
FAVORITE WRESTLER: Kevin Sullivan
FAVORITE ACTRESS: Anna-Nicole Smith
FAVORITE ACTOR: Jean-Claude Van Damme
FAVORITE MOVIE: *Silence Of The Lambs*
FAVORITE TV SHOW: *Tales From The Crypt*
FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Tim Allen
FAVORITE BAND: Triumph
FAVORITE SINGER: Meatloaf
FAVORITE SONG: "Paradise By The Dashboard Light," Meatloaf
FAVORITE CAR: Ford Bronco
LAST BOOK READ: George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
LAST MOVIE SEEN: *Natural Born Killers*
FAVORITE COLORS: Black and blue
FAVORITE FOOD: Pork chops
FAVORITE NUMBER: 2
FAVORITE ATHLETE: George Foreman
PLACE I WOULD MOST LIKE TO VISIT: Swiss Alps
PERSON I WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Madonna



The Von Erichs were, without a doubt, the best and most famous wrestling family from Texas. The Simpson brothers—Shaun and Steve—also made their mark in "Lone Star State" in the 1980s. The Simpsons, natives of South Africa, gave The Freebirds all they could handle. In this picture, taken at Texas Stadium, Terry Gordy sent Steve to the floor the hard way.



Some federations still don't allow wrestlers to use piledrivers ... and for good reason. Anyone who has been on the receiving end of one could tell you what kind of damage a piledriver can do to your neck. Harley Race's version was arguably the most lethal of all-time. Fortunately for Tony Garea, he recovered from this Race piledriver, but he felt the lingering effects for some time afterward.

REPORT CARD

Here's a convenient way to become acquainted with the strengths and weaknesses of your favorite mat stars. In this section, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING analyzes the abilities of the best in the sport!

Tony Anthony

SPEED: Mediocre at best. Anthony doesn't move particularly fast in the ring; he never has. "Dirty White Boy" is a methodical wrestler who uses his fists, not his legs, to win matches. The 18-year veteran's reflexes are also not as good as they were 10—or even five—years ago. He subjects himself to a lot of punishment in the ring because he simply isn't quick enough to get away from opponents and avoid their onslaughts. **C-**

STRENGTH: Pretty good, but there's definitely room for improvement. A few more hours in the weight room wouldn't hurt. Anthony does have one of the best right hands in the sport and loves to take matches against wrestlers who simply want to brawl with him. Leg strength is questionable and, too often, he overestimates his own power; he isn't strong enough to overpower most brawlers who are bigger than he is. **B-**

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE: When was the last time you saw Tony Anthony wrestle a clean, scientific match? He may be a fan favorite, but he wrestles like a rulebreaker. Loves to use the "Bucksnort Blaster" (a choke-slam) as his finisher, and that hardly fits into the category of great technical moves. To be fair, he has modified his repertoire some in the last few years. He'll use armbars and leglocks every now and then and has started to make more of an effort to wear down his opponents gradually before trying to put them away. **C+**

PHYSICAL CONDITION: "Dirty White Boy" doesn't look like he's in great shape, but looks can be deceiving. He proved during his most recent tenure as Smoky Mountain champion that he can still be effective when a match lasts 20 or 30 minutes. All those years of brutal brawling have helped him, too, as he has a very high threshold of pain. He can take a lot of punishment and still not wear down much. **B**

RING INTELLIGENCE: The fact that Anthony has gone back and forth between the fan favorites' and rulebreakers' camps during the last few years has to be worrisome. He still appears unsure of what kind of wrestler he is. In fact, he might be better off in the long run as a rulebreaker. He excels in violent specialty matches and would be even better in them if he had absolutely no regard for the rules. Doesn't learn from mistakes in the ring, either. **B-**

OVERALL GRADE: Give Tony Anthony credit: He has done a fine job of making the most of his skills. Barring injury, he should continue to dominate the independent scene for years to come. It's a shame he hasn't worked that hard to add new moves to his repertoire. It'd be interesting to see how he would fare in the WWF or WCW. Our guess is that he would be a little too one-dimensional to have any long-term success. **B-**

ask the

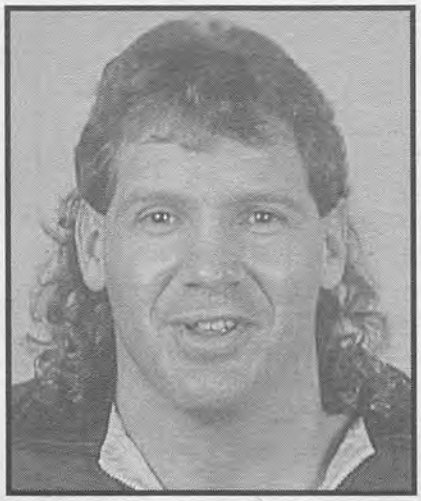
THE QUESTION:

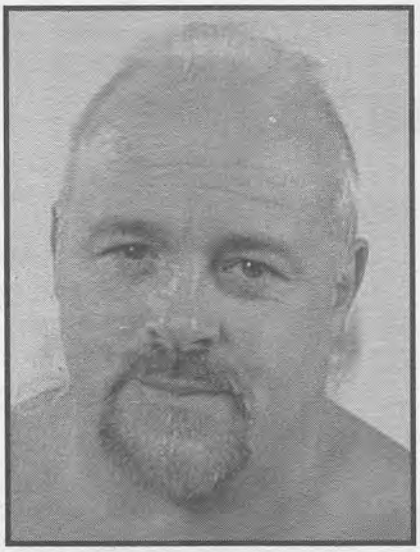
"Are you always willing to risk serious injury just to win a title?"

Submitted by: Nathan Ryno, Broomfield, CO

TRACEY SMOTHERS

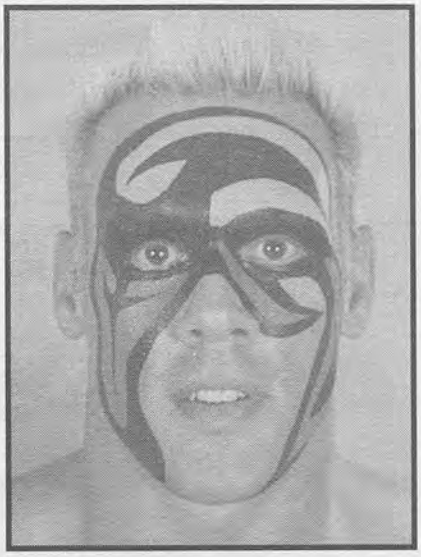
"The chance to win a title is the reason why young children dream of becoming wrestlers. The feeling of being a champion is the greatest, but to risk your life for a piece of gold around your waist is just plain stupid. You have to be willing to take a lot of punishment and make a lot of sacrifices to win a championship, but you have to know where to draw the line. Too many great wrestlers are being lost to injuries."





KEVIN SULLIVAN

"Championship belts don't mean much to me. I thrive on beating chumps like Hulk Hogan into oblivion. Pandering champs like him deserve to lose their belts along with a few pints of blood and a few inches of skin. I am motivated to win the WCW World title because in order to win the belt, I'll have to go through Hogan. To answer your question, I guess titles are important to me, but only if I get to hurt my opponent! Who cares if I get beat up along the way?"

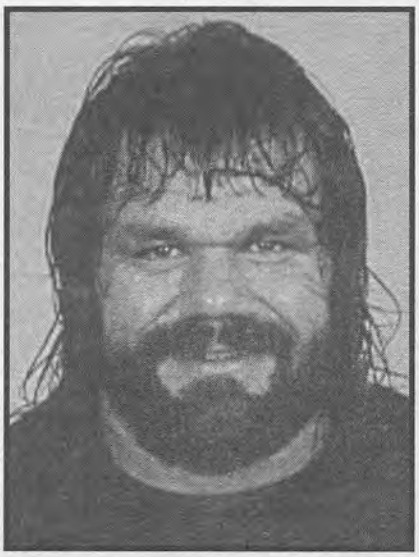


STING

"I know what it is like to win titles and also to suffer major injuries. I've had plenty of both! One thing I learned from those experiences is that my inspiration, my reason for wrestling, is the fans. Wrestling's tough, and you gotta expect to get injured, but even when you expect it, injuries aren't easy to deal with, especially when you're gunning for a title. It drains you. I love being a champion, but I also like to be able to defend it for the fans."

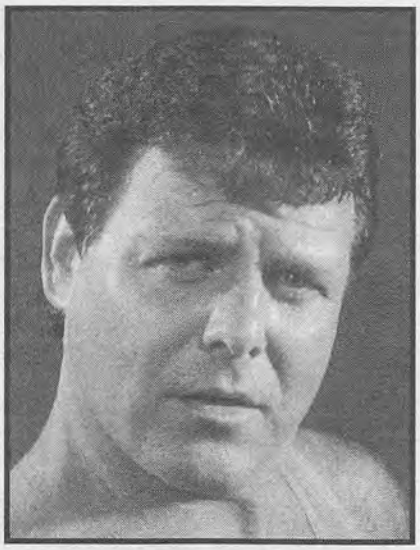
stars

Do you have a question you want answered by wrestling's top stars? Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will pose a fan's question to a half-dozen mat athletes. Send your queries to: ASK THE STARS c/o SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034



STEVE WILLIAMS

"To be a great champion, you must experience some sort of pain. Otherwise, the title would be worthless. It's like the old saying goes—'no pain, no gain.' I lived by that rule since my football days. The pain I've felt over the years just made me more determined to win. Sometimes you come out of a match with a belt, but you're all sore and bruised so bad that you can't walk the next day. Then you can say that you've won a real championship. The pain is always worth it!"

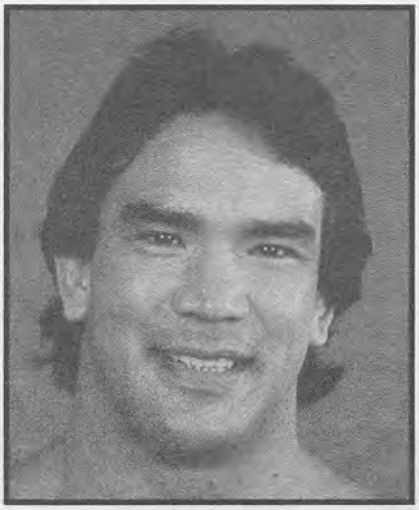


JERRY LAWLER

"When I decide to take any title, I know there's always a big risk of injury, especially now, but I don't care. Today's competition is only getting bigger, meaner, and more agile. But these muscleheaded buffoons I see today use pure power moves instead of wrestling holds, and their only goal is to hurt you. I don't worry about injuries too much. I enjoy giving these young guys lessons in the finer points of wrestling. There's nothing like a lesson from 'The King.'"

RICK STEAMBOAT

"I don't believe that winning a title is more important than things like family, friends, your health ... things that we might take for granted. Early in my career, I wanted to win titles at any cost just to prove my worth to fans. I soon learned that it didn't matter if I had a title—the fans would still support me. To win a championship is the greatest feeling in the world, but I learned the hard way that title reigns don't last as long as some injuries."



FLASHBACK

Each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING will examine a story from our archives, placing that feature—and the wrestlers involved—in historical perspective

Look Before You Leap

1987 Rookie of the Year Owen Hart is one of the finest young talents in wrestling, but he is headed for disaster if he decides to team with his brother Bret. Just ask their parents

OWEN HART MUST STEER CLEAR OF HIS BROTHER BRET

STU AND HELEN Hart have made their contribution to wrestling. Their six sons, Keith, Smith, Bruce, Steve, Bret, and Owen, all grew up to become professional wrestlers—in the case of several of them, *outstanding* professional wrestlers. While they all chose the same profession, they did *not* choose the same approach to the ring.

29

Story reprinted from *The Wrestler*, August 1988

There was a time in the Hart family when Bret was the rulebreaker and Owen was just an impressionable youngster trying to follow in the wrestling tradition of his father, Stu.

Seven years ago in the WWF, Bret was teaming with an equally hated Jim Neidhart in The Hart Foundation. At that time, Owen was flying high in Calgary; he had just been voted 1987 Rookie of the Year by *PWI* readers. Stu and Helen Hart were worried that Bret's heinous actions and snide attitude would influence Owen, who was one of the finest young talents in wrestling.

They knew Owen had a bright future as a fan favorite, provided he didn't allow his brother to influence him. Little did they realize that the hatred was already building in Owen. Six years later, he exploded and turned rulebreaker in an effort to destroy his brother. A glimpse into this famous family's past might help us all understand why this feud is so brutal and everlasting.

The hatred Owen harbored for Bret did, indeed, start at a young age. As Helen and Stu said it back then, Bret was the one with the mischievous streak, and Owen was usually the target of his jokes and anger. Helen actually called Bret a "little devil." Owen, his parents said, rarely caused any trouble.

In fact, when Stu and Helen Hart looked through some family albums seven years ago, they found many pictures that showed Bret taunting Owen or just making his life miserable. Of course, back then no one realized that Bret's bullying would come back to haunt him. Both parents knew Bret's actions bothered Owen, but they didn't know just how much until the Bret-Owen feud began early in 1994.

Now Helen and Stu, who have sided with Bret in the feud, are trying to deal with something that maybe could have been avoided had they taken the time to discipline Bret many, many years ago.

Bret Hart pulls Jim Brunzell's hair (top left). Owen Hart slugs Makhan Singh (above) and flies at him from the turnbuckle (left). Though both men are outstanding wrestlers, the Hart brothers differ in many respects. Owen prefers to play by the rules, while Bret often takes shortcuts.

"Stu and I are always talking about how differently the children turned out," Helen said while paging through the Hart family album. She paused for a moment to glance at a snapshot of Bret dunking his younger brother Owen's head into a puddle of mud. "That was taken while they were away at summer camp. Owen was voted 'Best Camper.' Bret, that little devil, had those counselors going absolutely crazy."

She continued to page through the album and then turned to her husband. "Don't you think, honey, that Bret was always the biggest troublemaker of all the children?" she asked. "I can't remember a day when Bret wasn't getting into trouble with his teachers or the other boys at school. Owen was always the littlest angel, and he hasn't changed at all."

Stu leaned back in his rocking chair and put the tip of his finger to his forehead, reaching far back into his memory to remember when Owen and Bret were just Stu and Helen Hart's little boys. He got up from his chair, hiked his pants, paced back and forth across the room, and finally spoke.

"Yep, I'd say that Bret was always the biggest troublemaker," Stu said. "You know, Bret always wanted to be a wrestler, just like his daddy, but sometimes he just took it a little too far. I remember saying to Helen one day, 'Honey, when that kid gets older, he's gonna be the worst rulebreaker you ever saw. He's just got it in him.' Helen said that wasn't true, but I could also tell that somewhere inside she knew I was right."

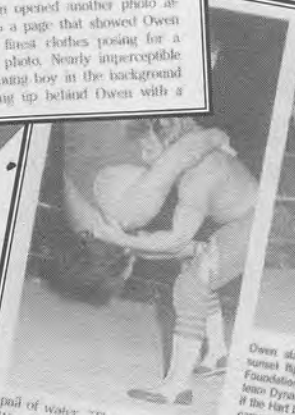
"Now Owen, on the other hand, was a different story," Stu continued. "He never caused much trouble to anyone, although he'd occasionally get into a mess like kids do, but a lot of times it was also because of Bret. Now Bret was a real devil, just like Helen said, but he'd occasionally put on this sweet face and act like nothing was wrong. That's when he'd rope in Owen, and Owen, who never suspected anybody in his life, was always easy prey. Then Owen would get into trouble."

Helen opened another photo album to a page that showed Owen in his finest clothes posing for a school photo. Nearly imperceptible is a young boy in the background sneaking up behind Owen with a pail of water. "That would be Bret. We keep this photo for laughs," Helen explained. "Because a few seconds after that photo was taken, that pail of water went right over Owen's head. Me and Stu just said, 'Well, that's Bret,' but the headmaster of the school gave Bret quite a soaking."

Stu and Helen started to laugh. Events that happened in the past seem so harmless when looked at many years later, and these family reminiscences are certainly amusing. But when viewed in light of what has happened professionally to Owen and Bret Hart, they take on new meaning when viewed in light of what may soon happen. They're even more important.

And dangerous.

Owen, who was 1987's Rookie of the Year, who has been Stampede North American champion since April 10, 1987, and who is one of the finest young scientific series artists in the sport, recently told a shocked group of reporters that he would consider teaming with Bret if his brother dumped Hart Foundation teammate Jim Neidhart. No one seriously considered this to be a possibility . . . until WrestleMania IV.



Owen slams Singh (left) and executes a sunset flip on him (above). Bret and Hart Foundation partner Jim Neidhart double-teams Dynamite Kid (bottom). Many feel that if the Hart brothers ever teamed up, Owen's career would be irreparably harmed.

Bret Hart and Bad News Brown, both rulebreakers, were the last two men remaining in the March 27 battle royal. They appeared willing to split the $25,000 first prize when Bad News viciously attacked Bret from behind and dumped him over the top rope. With the fans cheering him, Bret smashed the battle royal trophy to pieces, and a new feud was born . . . or at least renewed. Bret (then a fan favorite) and Brown (then known as Bad News Allen) battled for nearly two years in Calgary during the early 1980s.

Since March, Bret has concentrated on his rivalry with Brown while teaming less frequently with Neidhart. A talented veteran with the ability to wrestle scientifically or brawl violently, Bret seems to enjoy the cheers of the fans, and rumors have circulated that he has become disenchanted with Neidhart. A breakup appears imminent, which could lead to a new Hart Foundation consisting of Bret and Owen.

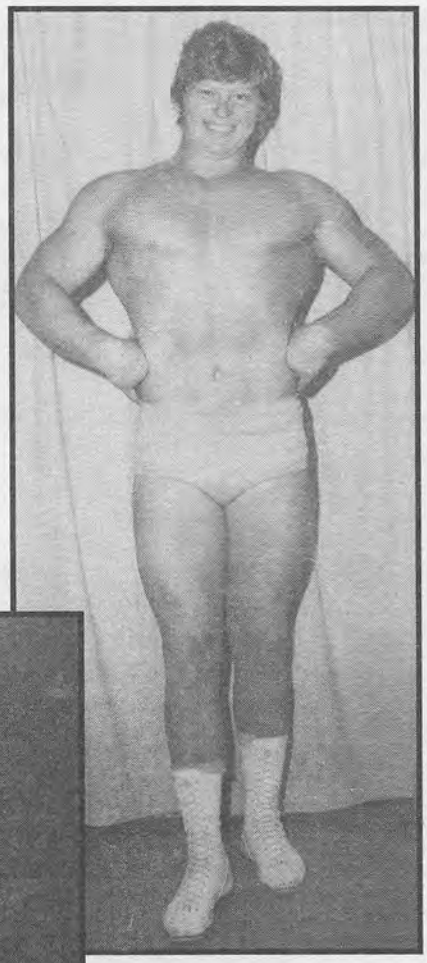
But can Owen trust Bret?

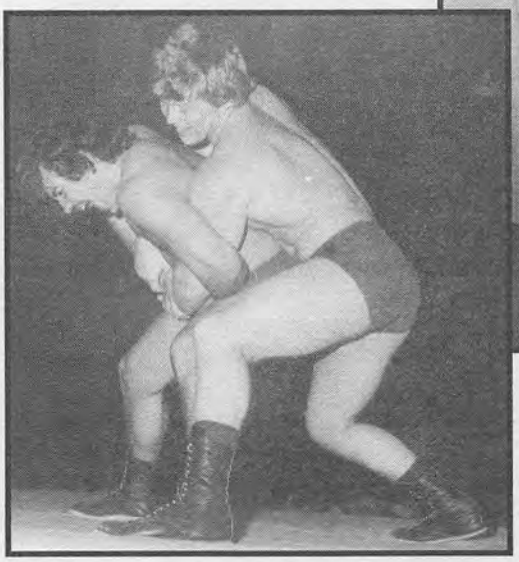
"I love my children, all of them," said Helen Hart, "but Bret's always been up to no good. Down deep, Bret's a good boy, but he's very mischievous. Bret can't help but get in a little trouble some of the time, and I'd be afraid that he'd bring Owen down with him. The fans really love Owen, and he has his own style. I love to see my children wrestle together, but in this case I'm just too sure."

Certainly, a mother knows best. The teaming of Owen and Bret Hart could mean trouble for Owen. One untrustworthy rulebreaker in a family is more than enough. Brotherly love may be a wonderful thing, but Owen would do best to avoid his brother—Neidhart, or no Neidhart. □

Bob Backlund

EVERY ISSUE, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING WILL LOOK AT THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN HOW A STAR WRESTLES AND LOOKS TODAY WITH THE WAY HE APPEARED AND WRESTLED YEARS AGO. THE COMPARISONS PROVIDE KEEN INSIGHTS INTO YOUR FAVORITE STARS





This was Bob Backlund in 1974: a man who was all smiles in the dressing room before and after matches (above)—a man who never broke the rules when wrestling the likes of Jerry Brisco (left).

BOB BACKLUND IS one of the most complex figures in wrestling. Backlund used to be one of the most honorable men in wrestling; today, he is one of the most heinous, unpredictable rulebreakers.

The long-time fan favorite's personality changed drastically last summer, when he became so frustrated by his lack of success in the ring that he attacked Bret Hart. Now many people refer to him as the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of wrestling. After 21 years as Jekyll, he finally changed into Hyde. Other than the fact that he is still a tremendous scientific wrestler, and he still uses the cross-face chicken wing as a submission hold, little is left of Backlund's former persona.

The Minnesota native was trained for his pro debut by Eddie Sharkey and Dory and Terry Funk. He made that debut in 1973 in the AWA and wrestled in several independent promotions before entering the WWF.

In those early years of his career, the "All-American Boy" never even thought about straying from the rules; he always showed the utmost politeness and respect to people, no matter where he went. In the ring and during interviews, Backlund's boyish charm

THEN

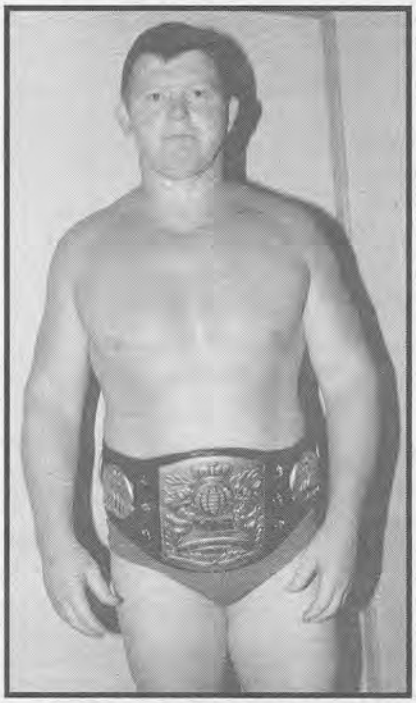
won the hearts of fans and the ire of opponents, some of whom likened him to "Howdy Doody."

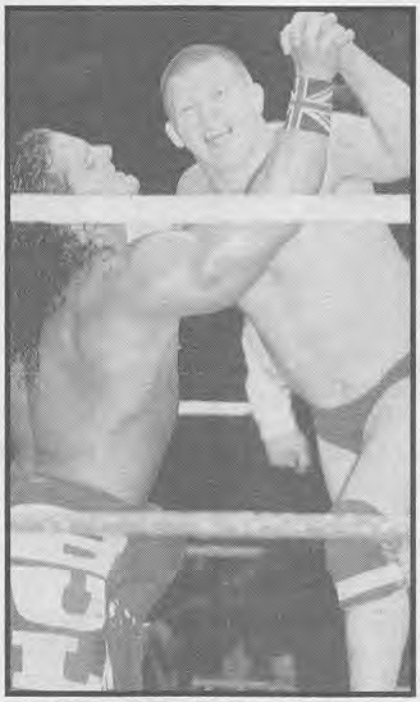
His hard work and determination paid off in a big way when he won the WWF World title from Superstar Graham on February 20, 1978. Backlund went on to reign as champion for almost six years.

As World champion, Bob Backlund squared off against every formidable opponent. He had memorable feuds with the likes of Pat Patterson, Jimmy Snuka, and Sgt. Slaughter. Even Graham gave him fits when he returned to the WWF. Their feud was so intense that in 1983, Graham destroyed the championship belt that he had once held.

Backlund eventually lost the title to The Iron Sheik in Madison Square Garden on December 26, 1983. In a controversial move, Backlund's manager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel when his protege was caught in Sheik's camel clutch. Many believe that he saved Backlund from a career-threatening injury, but a decade later, Backlund said he never forgave Skaaland. Before Backlund could get a rematch, The Iron Sheik lost the belt to a man named Hulk Hogan.

Despite this traumatic turn of events, Bob Backlund remained a true gentleman ... at least for a while. He took a few years off during the '80s, then finally came back to the WWF in the early-1990s. He won a few key matches, but soon started to struggle.





The Bob Backlund of today is not nearly as jovial. He showed no emotion even after he won a championship in Japan a few months ago (above left). Hate flashed in his eyes during a bout against Davey Boy Smith (above right), however.

When he lost a match to World champion Bret Hart, he snapped! He locked Hart in the chicken wing and wouldn't let him go for several minutes. Over the next few months, he claimed it was not he who had changed, but the fans. Backlund lamented the declining morals of people in America and proceeded to chicken-wing everyone from his former manager to a diminutive WWF employee.

"I don't know what happened to Bobby," Skaaland said at the time. "I feel like I just don't know the man anymore."

Fans throughout North America were furious with him. He did, however, get the attention of all the WWF's fan favorites. Hart granted him a rematch at the 1994 Survivor Series, and, in a shocking upset, Backlund beat "The Hitman" for the belt when Bret's mother, Helen, threw in the towel for her son while Bret was caught in the chicken wing.

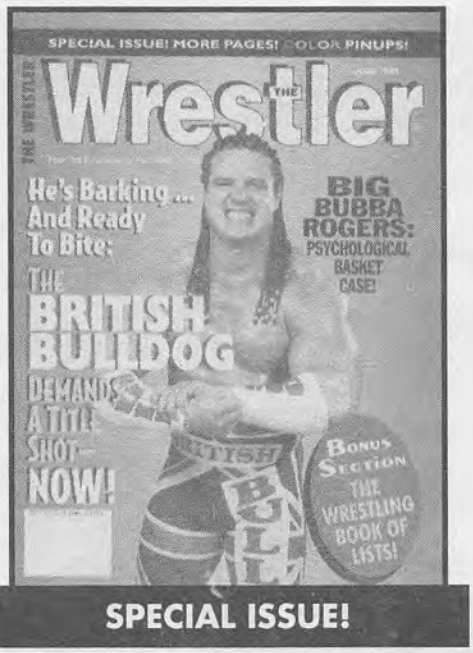
Unfortunately for Backlund, his second reign was not as spectacular as his first. He was pinned by Diesel in eight seconds three days later.

The saddest thing about Backlund is that he used to be wrestling's ultimate good guy. When he snapped, the sport lost a role model. The fans are still reeling from that loss. ■

and NOW

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler



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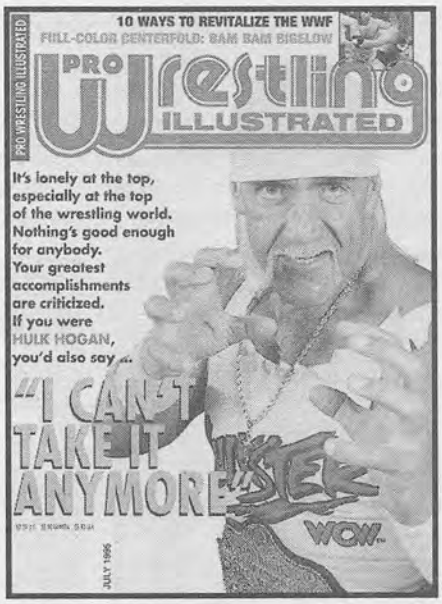

HULK HOGAN is a frustrated man. Everywhere he goes, he hears people criticizing him. Shortly after SuperBrawl V, he declared, "I can't take it anymore!" ... Anyone who follows the WWF knows **VINCE McMAHON'S** federation isn't what it used to be. We came up with 10 good ways to revitalize the WWF ... **SHERRI MARTEL** says she loves managing **HARLEM HEAT**; we hear she has her eye on her old friend **RANDY SAVAGE**. It could be a case of fatal attraction!

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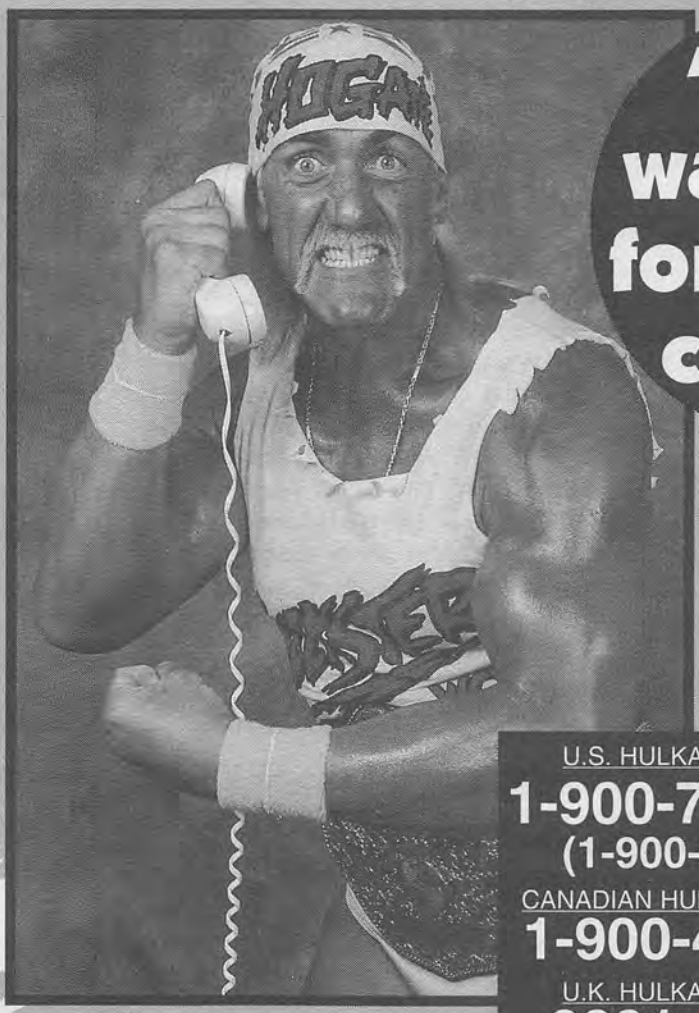

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INFOCENTER

Got a wrestling history question? Need to have one of the sport's rules clarified? Have a question concerning wrestling's current events? In each issue, SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING'S research department will provide the answers. Send your questions to InfoCenter, c/o SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

I've only been a wrestling fan for about three years, and I'm really excited about WCW establishing a cruiserweight division. My father told me that the NWA junior heavyweight title used to be one of the most prestigious in all of wrestling. Could you tell me something about its history?—*Annette Robinson, Bismarck, ND*

It was, indeed, one of the most prestigious titles in wrestling at one time, Annette. The NWA junior heavyweight title was in existence for more than 54 years. A man by the name of Albion Britt was the first to hold the title; he was champion from 1934 to 1936. Many famous wrestlers held it, including Al Madril, Terry Taylor, Steve (not Lord Steven) Regal, Jerry Brisco, Mike Davis, and Tiger Mask. Both Danny Hodge and Les Thornton held it four times. In fact, Hodge won his fourth title nearly 16 years after he won it the first time. Nelson Royal was the last champion before the title was abandoned in 1988.

It seems to me like Chris Candido is almost an "overnight sensation." I mean, the first I ever heard of him was when he showed up in Smoky Mountain. Then he won the Smoky Mountain tag team title with Brian Lee, then the NWA title, and now he's moving on to the WWF. Where did he come from so fast?—*Steven Esposito, Los Angeles, CA*

"I've been a star since the day I was born," Candido told us. That might be a bit of a stretch, but Candido's not exactly an "overnight sensation," as you suggest he was. Candido has been wrestling professionally for five years now. He got his start in New Jersey, his native state. He twice won the WWA junior heavyweight title, the first time in 1990. His success in that federation obviously caught the eye of SMW promoters. Of course, you could argue that good genes played a part in Candido's success. His grandfather, Chuck "Popeye" Richards, was a pretty good pro wrestler in his day.

LES THORNTON

TRIVIA ANSWERS
(Test on page 16)

WHO WON THAT?	ODDS & ENDS	TRUE OR FALSE
1. f	1. a	1. True
2. i	2. b	2. False
3. e	3. b	3. False
4. h	4. b	4. True
5. a	5. a	5. True
6. j	6. c	6. False
7. d	7. a	7. True
8. g	8. b	8. False
9. c	9. c	9. True
10. b	10. a	10. False

MYSTERY WRESTLER
Col. Rob Parker (a.k.a. Robert Fuller)

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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May 1980/Koloff-Ole, Brody, Funks, Andre, Graham, Fernandez.
January 1981/Morales, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams, Bundy, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs, special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A. Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
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December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
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May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
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March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook
April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.
May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.
June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.
July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry.
August 1989/Luger & Sting, Ultimate, Flair's personal photos, Bulldogs.
September 1989/Duggan, Wrestle War, Rhodes, Flair-Steamboat, Japan.
October 1989/Great American Bash, Piper-Ventura, Savage-Hogan.
November 1989/Hogan's toughest matches, Snuka, Sting, Skyscrapers.
January 1990/Savage, Woman-Steiner, Vicious, fattest wrestlers.
February 1990/Piper, Kerry, Muta & Luger vs. Flair, Datebook.
April 1990/Starrcade '89, Roberts, Williams, Diamond, Five to watch.
May 1990/Hogan, Royal Rumble, Piper, Zbyszko-Sammartino, Nord.
June 1990/Hogan vs. Warrior, Wrestle War '90, Saito, Andre, Paul E.
July 1990/WrestleMania VI, Cornette, Sullivan vs. Norman, Ole.
August 1990/Ultimate Warrior, Blanchard, Windham, NWA returns to NY.
September 1990/Legion of Doom, Luger, Haynes, Gossett, wrestling's far side.
October 1990/Sting, Legion of Doom, Steiners, Kerry, Slaughter.
November 1990/Ultimate Warrior, Great American Bash, Sting, Muta.
December 1990/SummerSlam, Karry, Steiners, Hart Foundation, Hogan.
January 1991/Sting vs. Luger, Tugboat-Hogan, Bossman, Autumn Armageddon.
February 1991/Halloween Havoc, Rude, Davey Boy, Juicer, Lawler.
April 1991/Bret Hart, Hennig, Gigante, Starrcade '90, Honky Tonk.
May 1991/Hulk Hogan, Sting, Warrior, Royal Rumble, Luger, Williams.
June 1991/Undertaker, Sting & Luger, Dundee, Wrestle War '91, Davey Boy.
July 1991/Lex Luger, Ultimate-Savage, WWF World title history, TWF.
August 1991/Wrestling From A to Z, Slaughter-Undertaker, Taylor, Kiel.
September 1991/Justice, rare WWF pix, Flair, Sullivan, Valentine.
October 1991/Hogan, Gibson, Atlas, Hart Foundation, memorabilia.
November 1991/I.Q. Test, Hogan, Lane, Luger, Simmons, Bash '91.
December 1991/Hogan & Justice, Enforcers, Perfect, Flair & Hogan.
January 1992/Undertaker, Steiner, Slaughter, Patriot, wild men, Anthony.
February 1992/Top stars in '92, Hart-Neidhart, Paul E., Hall, Havoc.
April 1992/Are you a fan?, Sherri, Starrcade '91, Simmons, Irwin & Bart.
May 1992/Flair, Justice-Undertaker, Vader interview, WCW light heavy division.
June 1992/Sting/SuperBrawl '92, Undertaker, Stetson-Koloff, Bossman-Martel, Luger interview.
July 1992/Steamboat, A look back at Sports Review, Luger, Ron Garvin.

SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING

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☐ SEPT/81	☐ DEC/84	☐ AUG/87	☐ MAY/90
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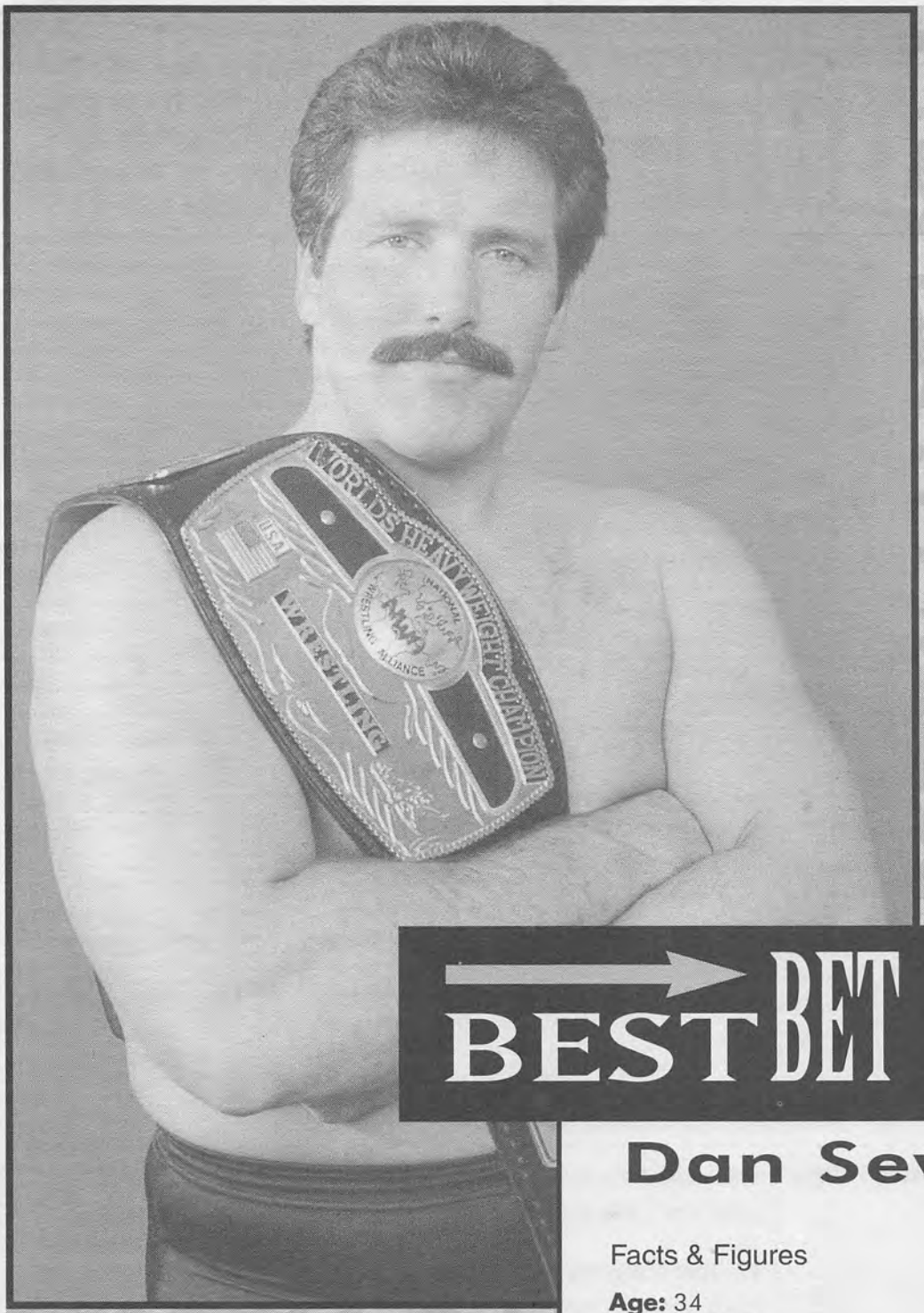

BEST BET

Dan Severn

Facts & Figures

Age: 34
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 260
Hometown: Coldwater, MI
Biggest Match: Defeated Chris Candido for NWA title, February 24, 1995
Immediate Goal: Make the NWA as respected as it once was
Long Range Goal: Unify the NWA, WCW, and WWF titles after winning all of them

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2231	AC/DC	2791	Cry of Love	4691	INXS	6393	New Order	7661	Sonic Youth
2371	Aerosmith	2853	The Cult	2768	Jackson Browne	6461	Nine Inch Nails	7683	Soul Asylum
6261	Aimee Mann	2871	The Cure	5224	Jackyl	6471	Nirvana	7682	Soundgarden
2664	Alice Cooper	3261	Damn Yankees	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ	7746	Spin Doctors
2541	Alice in Chains	3262	Danger Danger	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne	7181	Squeeze
2551	Allman Bros.	3265	Danzig	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera	8242	Steve Vai
2681	Anthrax	2691	David Bowie	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth	6421	Stevie Nicks
2527	B-52s	7681	David Lee Roth	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon	7842	Sting
2233	Bad Company	3332	Deep Purple	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney	7863	Stone Temple Pilots
2323	Beatles	3331	Def Leppard	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg	7834	Suede
2325	Beck	3371	Depeche Mode	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam	7841	Suicidal Tendencies
2352	Belly	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel	7862	Sundays
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4361	Billy Idol	3733	Dream Theater	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd	8321	Tears For Fears
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2693	Cowboy Junkies	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row	9371	Yes
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SPORTS REVIEW OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and tag team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

TOP 10

1—DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
(1) WWF World champion

2—STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(3) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

3—RAZOR RAMON
287, Miami, FL
(2) No. 6 contender: WWF World title

4—BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
(-) U.S. heavyweight champion

5—BRET HART
234, Calgary, Alberta
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

6—JEFF JARRETT
230, Nashville, TN
(8) WWF Intercontinental champion

7—HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
(4) WCW World champion

8—ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN
(-) WCW TV champion

9—THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
(5) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

10—BILL DUNDEE
219, Melbourne, Australia
(-) USWA heavyweight champion

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—BIG VAN VADER
(1) 450, Denver, CO
2—ARN ANDERSON
(7) 249, Minneapolis, MN
3—JOHNNY B. BADD
(3) 235, Macon, GA
4—HACKSAW DUGGAN
(8) 280, Glens Falls, NY
5—STING
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
6—RANDY SAVAGE
(4) 237, Sarasota, FL
7—ALEX WRIGHT
(–) 222, Berlin, Germany
8—BRIAN PILLMAN
(–) 226, Cincinnati, OH
9—BUBBA ROGERS
(–) 310, Cobb County, GA
10—BLACKTOP BULLY
(–) 264, Dubuque, IA

WWF

World Champion:
DIESEL
(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

1—JEFF JARRETT
(4) 230, Nashville, TN
2—BRET HART
(3) 234, Calgary, Alberta
3—THE UNDERTAKER
(2) 328, parts unknown
4—HAKUSHI
(–) 231, Tokyo, Japan
5—BOB BACKLUND
(8) 234, Princeton, MN
6—RAZOR RAMON
(1) 287, Miami, FL
7—SHAWN MICHAELS
(10) 234, San Antonio, TX
8—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(9) 245, Leeds, England
9—LEX LUGER
(5) 265, Chicago, IL
10—BAM BAM BIGELOW
(–) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

USWA

USWA Champion:
BILL DUNDEE
(C) 219, Melbourne, Australia

1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
2—JERRY LAWLER
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
3—REGGIE B. FINE
(6) 215, Memphis, TN
4—GORGEOUS GEORGE III
(–) 221, Charlotte, NC
5—SPELLBINDER
(3) 246, parts unknown
6—SCOTT STUDD
(–) 224, Atlanta, GA
7—TOMMY RICH
(5) 248, Hendersonville, TN
8—TONY WILLIAMS
(–) 235, Memphis, TN
9—MOONDOG SPOT
(–) 263, parts unknown
10—CRUSHER BONES
(–) 269, Memphis, TN

V I E W

FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 17, 1995

TAG TEAMS

1—HARLEM HEAT
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions

2—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(-) WWF World tag team champions

3—ELI & JACOB BLU
Combined weight: 517 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(5) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

6—THE HEADSHRINKERS
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

7—CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO
Combined weight: 434 pounds
(-) ECW tag team champions

8—RANDY SAVAGE & STING
Combined weight: 495 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

9—THE NASTY BOYS
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(4) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

10—THE HEAVENLY BODIES
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

MOST POPULAR

1—STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2—HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

3—DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

4—RAZOR RAMON
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

5—RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

6—BRET HART
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: unrated

7—DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

8—THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

9—LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

10—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1—BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2—SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: unrated

3—OWEN HART
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

4—BOB BACKLUND
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

5—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

6—JEFF JARRETT
230, Nashville, TN
Last issue: unrated

7—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ
Last issue: unrated

8—TATANKA
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

9—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
248, Syracuse, NY
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

10—SID VICIOUS
318, West Memphis, AR
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1—MARTY JANNETTY
(–) 230, Columbia, GA
2—HECTOR GUERRERO
(–) 232, Mexico City, Mexico
3—SABU
(2) 220, Bombay
4—CACTUS JACK
(3) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
5—DEAN MALENKO
(7) 216, Tampa, FL
6—CHRIS BENOIT
(5) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
7—IAN ROTTEN
(–) 281, Philadelphia, PA
8—2 COLD SCORPIO
(6) 222, Denver, CO
9—TASMANIAC
(4) 221, Tasmania
10—TOMMY DREAMER
(–) 245, Yonkers, NY

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
BOBBY BLAZE
(C) 222, Charlotte, NC

1—TONY ANTHONY
(C) 235, Bucksnort, TN
2—BUDDY LANDELL
(1) 236, Los Angeles, CA
3—BOO BRADLEY
(3) 310, parts unknown
4—TRACEY SMOTHERS
(2) 227, Atlanta, GA
5—MUSTAFA SAED
(7) 244, Atlanta, GA
6—D-LO BROWN
(–) 305, Bronx, NY
7—AL SNOW
(–) 232, Lima, OH
8—UNIBOMB
(–) 345, parts unknown
9—ROBERT GIBSON
(10) 225, Pensacola, FL
10—RICK MORTON
(8) 228, Memphis, TN

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:
STAN HANSEN
(C) 322, Borger, TX

1—STEVE WILLIAMS
(1) 265, Norman, OK
2—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(2) 247, Saitama, Japan
3—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
4—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(3) 287, Gisu, Japan
5—BIG VAN VADER
(4) 450, Denver, CO
6—KENTA KOBASHI
(5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
7—NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(7) 231, Yokohama, Japan
8—CHRIS BENOIT
(8) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
9—PERRO AGUAYO
(9) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
10—GARY ALBRIGHT
(10) 340, Billings, MT

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. It's vital reading for all wrestling fans!

Rise and fall of a "King." Until just a few weeks before press time, **Jerry "The King" Lawler** had been on a hot streak, holding the USWA and Smoky Mountain titles simultaneously. He even cracked the Top 10 of the ratings in some of our other magazines. After all, he had won the Smoky belt from **Tony Anthony** in his first match in the federation.

A few days later, he finally regained the USWA belt from **Sid Vicious** in Memphis. It seemed as if "The King" was wrestling as well as he had in years, when his luck suddenly took a turn for the worst.

Within the span of about 18 hours, Lawler lost both belts. The first day, a Saturday, Lawler was defeated by **Bill Dundee** for the USWA belt in Memphis. The very next afternoon, he lost the Smoky Mountain belt to mid-card-wrestler-turned-sensation **Bobby Blaze**, who was a last-minute substitute for Anthony. Blaze's victory wasn't a solo effort, though. During the match, **Buddy Landell** interfered on Blaze's behalf. Maybe Lawler was still trying to recover from the loss the day before.

If you think the upset victory by Blaze was just a fluke, guess again. Right after defeating Lawler, an exhausted Blaze, who had also defeated **Bryan Logan** on the first match on the card, had to face Landell, who had signed to face the winner of the Lawler-Blaze match. Blaze took a tremendous beating from the veteran, but still managed to pin his shoulders to the mat after Anthony interfered.

Blaze, who was unranked last issue in any category, now assumes his position at the top of the Smoky Mountain ratings. The way he's going, he could crack our overall Top 10 soon. For Lawler, it's back to the drawing board.

It's a dog's life. **Boo Bradley** must be happy now that he has run **Chris Candido** out of the Smoky Mountain area. Bradley and Candido signed a series of "loser-eats-dog-food" matches, which culminated in a "loser-leaves-the-federation" match. Bradley won every bout in the series, including that final one.

Now Bradley may be ready for a run at the Smoky Mountain title, while Candido, who lost his NWA title to **Dan Severn** two days before being booted out of SMW, is looking for a job elsewhere. Expect him and manager **Tamara Murphy Fytch** to make a major impact in the WWF soon.

Signings and stuff. Apparently, **Kama**, one of the many wrestlers to enter the WWF of late, has had a change of heart ... or at least a change in attitude. After wrestling as a fan favorite for a few months, he decided **Ted DiBiase's** offer to join his Corporation was too good to turn down. He's now a full-fledged rulebreaker. We'll see if joining the group helps his career. So far, not a single member of DiBiase's Corporation has won a title while under Ted's management.

And one of the strangest alliances of recent times—**Jim Cornette** and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**—has ended. And it didn't end violently. Cornette is continuing his feud with **The Gangstas**, while the Rock 'n' Rolls are battling **Al Snow** and **Unibomb**. We'll see if **Rick Morton** and **Robert Gibson** can hold on to their SMW tag titles without Cornette's guidance.

Jerry Lawler

That's all for now. If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings or any of the issues we have raised on this page, please drop us a line. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. ■

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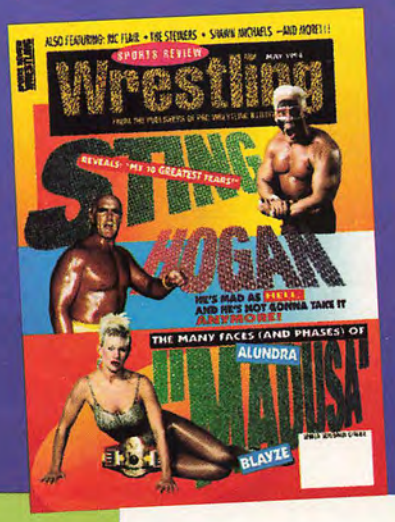

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